

Dust off your binoculars and head for the wetlands. It's bird watching season.

Page 16



'Millennium Teahouse' will combine Chinese Cross Talking with drama from November 22 to 25.

Page 12



Want to see how Ma Longxiang, a professional wedding compere, gets man and wife together?

Page 9



BEIJING TODAY

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2001 NO. 28

CN11-0120

HTTP://WWW.YNET.COM

Tariff Cuts Come Once: New Year

By Yang Xiao

China will cut tariffs on January 1, 2002, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation announced at the World Trade Organization Summit in Doha on November 13.

Yi Xiaozhun, head of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, said China had chosen to make one round of cuts at the beginning of the year rather than two sets of cuts.

According to WTO rules, China could cut tariffs on both December 11 — when China becomes a formal member — and January 1, 2001.

The one set of cuts could help avoid confusions for partners, overseas companies and entrepreneurs, he said. China has cut tariffs 6.6% since January 1, reducing its overall import tariff levels from 16.4% to 15.3%. China will make more cuts in the future, with auto imports changing the most from 100% today to 25% by 2006.

Golf Club Collects Tiger Tokens

By Shan Jinliang

Tiger came to town this week and the Chinese golf club that invited him cashed in on the action. But whether or not David Chu, chairman and founder of Mission Hills Golf Club in Shenzhen, actually profited from proceedings remained open to question.

Chu pleaded poverty, but claimed he was happy nonetheless to realize his dream of getting the world no.1 to visit November 9-11. "The game was bound to lose money as we predicted from the outset," he said to *Beijing Star Daily*. Chu told CCTV in June overall investment would exceed \$4,000,000, including \$500,000 for Tiger Woods' expenses and private airplane, plus organizing fees and TV transmission rights. An official from the club said more than 200 TV stations broadcast news of the event, including CNN, CNBC, ESPN, Star Sports, CCTV and domestic media.

When Woods visits a golf club anywhere in the world, it certainly seems to do little harm to the club's profile and promotions. Some analysts suggested Mission Hills Golf Club had profited at least \$4,000,000 from the three-day visit.

The cash income derives from sponsorships, fee opportunities to compete with Woods and company promotions and dinners. Hoardings at the 18 holes sold for an average \$60,000 each, with four hoardings at each hole. Holes 1, 8 and 18 cost \$90,000. Do the math and total income from the boards alone adds up to \$1,170,000.

Golf groups of four challengers paid organizers \$10,000-\$30,000 each to compete on one hole against Woods. Feng Yue, a 5-year-old girl, was signed up for the 16th and 17th, each a cool \$25,000. From this, the penniless Chu appears to have netted \$5,700,000. The 2,000 VIPs and 8,000 spectators, each paid \$125-\$250: another \$1,000,000. Poor Chu could only collect \$20,000-\$60,000 a head for the set business dinner with Woods.

"We are sure to make some profit," said Chu's assistant Wang Xuling. Maybe Chu made a loss, and maybe Tiger can't play golf.

(More see page 3)



Woods: star attraction

Photo by Lu Binghui

Conference seeks compassion for victims of killer virus



Li Ziliang and his wife appear with CCTV anchor Ni Ping (right) on the stage

Photo by Jia Ting

Conference Fights Advance of AIDS

By Shan Jinliang

More than 600,000 Chinese live with HIV/AIDS, and the virus is spreading rapidly throughout China, the Minister of Public Health told the first China AIDS/STD Conference being held in Beijing November 13-16.

Since the first AIDS patient was diagnosed in 1985, there had been 28,133 HIV/AIDS cases reported by the end of this September, of which 1,208 were AIDS patients and 641 died, said Zhang Wenkang.

Given the recently observed rises in reported HIV infections and infection rates in many sub-populations in several parts of the country, the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in China could well exceed one million by end of this year, said Peter Piot, executive director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

The number of Chinese infected with HIV had risen 67.4% over last year, he said. He predicted AIDS would afflict more than 10 million by 2010 if it continued to rise at its current rate of 30%.

A barrier to mitigating the epidemic in China is the high level of lack of knowledge and fear both in the general public and among health workers, he said.

The State Council has implemented an AIDS Prevention Plan 2001-2005, Zhang said in his speech. China will spend 100 million yuan on prevention and control of venereal diseases and AIDS. A further 95 million yuan will be used to build 250 blood banks in 20 central and western provinces and autonomous regions, said the State Council at an August press conference.

By Shan Jinliang

A man from a small village in Henan steps on stage to a burst of bright Beijing light. Flash bulbs, TV cameras and microphones encircle Li Ziliang, 33, who does not notice the tears in the many eyes of his official audience.

Stepping out on Tuesday, Li — not his real name — becomes the first HIV-infected Chinese to show his face to domestic media at a fund-raising party for HIV-infected people, part of the four-day China AIDS/STD Conference, the first of its kind in Beijing.

Later, Li admits he hesitated a long time before accepting his moment of national fame. He confides to a *Beijing Youth Daily* reporter that he pondered fleeing the city after learning the event was going to be aired on national CCTV. Li fears the notoriety will shatter his newfound family life achieved after becoming the accidental star of an award-winning Beijing TV documentary.

In August 1998, Li was told by a Tianjin clinic that he could not donate his blood for 1,000 yuan as he had a virus. A previous donor, Li feared the worst and caught the first train home that night.

When he arrived home, Li found someone had already called his family ahead of him. He found for the first time he was famous in his village, but for all the wrong reasons.

Wedding snub
A village couple he knew was getting married and accepted Li's traditional wedding cash gift. But when Li's child went to attend the marriage festivities, the child was driven out of the wedding home.

Li took blood samples from his 21-year-old wife and three under-10 children to Beijing where, unbeknownst to him, the TV crews were waiting.

It was a sunny but windy day, about a dozen days before spring festival, when the nurse approached Li with the test results. "They're negative," she said. "No problem. Don't worry."

Blank-faced, Li stood up instantly and ran outside, where he headed home a second time in a force 5-6 gale.

But this time, tipped off by a doctor, a camera crew came with him. After 10 hours on the train standing, Li, the photographers and reporters reached his home. Some villagers asked the crew if they were police and had come to capture Li.

Over the next few days, the TV crew documented Li's new life:

■ nobody would buy or sell anything to him at the town fair

■ nobody would irrigate his dry wheat fields, as they feared infection from touching his money

■ no barber would cut his eldest boy's hair

■ his mother-in-law refused to come to see the family

■ a cobbler eventually agreed to fix his shoes. But when Li handed a cigar to the man, a woman gently kicked the old man. "Oops I forget!" he said, and threw it to the ground

■ "I cannot divorce him as he treats me so well," said his weeping wife. "But I cannot live this way." She left him two days later.

Love quest

In vain, Li spent his days trying to find his wife. He took the children to the provincial Bureau of Civil Affairs in hope of placing them in a welfare home. The bureau refused.

After Beijing TV broadcast a 50-minute documentary at the end of 2000, relatives helped Li to find his wife.

Then he moved with his family to a small city, where he now works with a degree of anonymity. He has regular checkups at a nearby non-governmental AIDS assistance clinic.

Li received his invitation from the organizing committee of the conference. He has since returned to his new home and leads a quiet life. To recognize World AIDS Day CCTV-1 will broadcast the show on Friday November 30.



Sun Yue and Lin Yilun perform a duet

Photo by Jackey

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Under the auspices of the Information Office of Beijing Municipal Government ■ Run by Beijing Youth Daily ■ President: Chen Xing ■ Editor in Chief: Zhang Yanping ■ Executive Deputy Editor in Chief: He Pingping ■ Director of the Editorial Department: Liu Feng ■ Price: 1 yuan per issue ■ 13 yuan for 3 months ■ Address: No.23, Building A, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China ■ Zip Code: 100026 ■ Telephone/Fax: (010) 6590-2525 ■ E-mail: bjtoday@ynet.com ■ Hotline for subscription with Red Cap Company: (010) 6641-6666 ■ Overseas Code Number: D1545 ■ Overseas Distribution Agent: China International Book Trading Corporation

Capital Laws and Regulations Come out in English

People both at home and abroad gain access to accurate information of Beijing laws and regulations

By Li Dan

The first collection of Laws and Regulations in English compiled by the Legal Affairs Office of the Beijing Municipal People's Government has recently been published in 2000 issues.

The present collection consists of 22 local regulations enacted by the Beijing Municipal People's Congress or its Standing Committee and 41 sets of rules formulated by the People's Government of Beijing municipality from 1949 to November 2001, altogether 63. They are selected from 400 local laws and regulations and are all closely related to the field of foreign investment.

The collection falls into 9 categories: Democratic Politics, Protection of Rights and Interests, Economic Management, Management for Economic Development



Photo by Qu LiYan

Zones, Social Protection, Urban and Rural Construction Management, Environment Protection, Management of Education, Culture and Public Health, and Administration of Public Security. It also includes Management Regulations of Zhongguancun Science Park. Within the categories, the regulations and rules are arranged according to the chronological order of promulgation, with laws and regulations being put ahead of rules.

Officials said all the new rules and regulations adopted by the Beijing Municipal People's Congress in the future will have both Chinese and English versions due to further opening up since China's entry to World Trade Organization (WTO). For more information, contact 65193426/27 or 66087875.

Central Bank Lowers Foreign Currency Deposit Interest Rates

By Shan Jinliang

The People's Bank of China lowered its interest rates for small deposits on Monday for the US Dollar, Pound Sterling, Euro, Hong Kong Dollar, Canadian Dollar and Swiss Franc in domestic commercial Chinese banks. It is the ninth change of the kind.

The decision was made according to the fluctuation of the international financial market, mainly from the U.S. Federal Reserve's lowering the interest rate in early October and November, which in turn gave rise to lowering the rates of the European Central Bank and other financial bodies.

One-year deposit rates for the US Dollar, Pound Sterling, Euro, Hong Kong Dollar, Canadian Dollar and Swiss Franc have been lowered to 1.25%, 2.8125%, 2.0625%, 1.4375%, 1.625% and 0.9375% respectively.

Duty-free Gasoline Still Available

By Li Dan

Foreign airline companies operating international routes will still be granted the right of exemption on aviation gasoline duty within the country's boundaries, an official at the National Ministry of Finance declared last Friday. The policy has never been revised or adjusted, he added.

A recent incident brought about the declaration. Some foreign airline companies reported their airplanes have been imposed with 9 percent of duties and 17 percent value added tax (V.A.T.) on imported aviation gasoline when refuelling at China's airports, which increases their operation costs. The official said the matter is now under investigation to see if it is related to the activities of gasoline-supplying enterprises.

"China will, as always, implement the promise of granting duty-free treatment, on imported aviation gasoline, to airplanes of foreign airline companies operating on international routes within the country, so as to improve international communication and economic development," the official concluded.

City Acts to Save Water

By Huang Jianhua / Wang Yanyan

The Beijing Municipal Government promulgated a water quota system on Tuesday for industry, agriculture as well as individual's daily lives, to be put into practice on January 1 next year. Water quotas have been set for bathing and car washing. The amount of water for a hair-wash in a beauty salon is limited to 20 liters per person and for taking a shower in public bathhouses to 100 liters per person.

Sources from the Beijing Water Conservation Bureau informed Beijing Youth Daily that all quotas result from their research and analysis. Finally, the investigation showed that 20 liters of water could meet the needs of most consumers if the beauty salons economize on water.

Furthermore, water consumed above the quota will be charged up to five times that of the original water price. People who have their own water well will be charged two to five times the standard rates to restrict overuse.

Details of implementation and means of supervision are still being discussed. The Beijing Water Conservation Bureau states that the quotas serve to promote the idea of economizing on water to prevent further wastage. The main purpose is to encourage individual self-discipline and self-supervision.

National Radio Station Loses National Games

By Shan Jinliang

For the first time China National Radio was not entitled to broadcast the Ninth National Games because of its reluctance to purchase the transmission rights. The Games kicked off in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province on November 11.

The National Games is the first to sell its TV and radio transmission rights in China's comprehensive games' history, while the previous transmission rights were all exchanged for advertising space in the stations, said Liu Qingzao, in charge of the transmission rights of the games. The organizing committee of the games has sold the transmission rights for over 10 million yuan to more than 30 domestic and overseas TV stations and 10 radio stations, including CCTV and Guangdong local stations, Liu Qingzao revealed.

"Unreasonable Act", said national station

"The fee for transmission rights is unreasonable as the Eighth National Games in Shanghai was free for all media," said Liu Guixing, sports director of China National Radio in an

unhappy voice, all this smacks of a business operation.

"The Games said they intended to link their business operation to international practice, like the Olympics, but how could it be possible to match the Olympics?" questioned Liu Guixing.

Miss Li, an official from the Chief Editing Office of the radio station said, "the Ninth National Games is not a commercial one and neither is China National Radio a business station."

To deal with the friction, says Director Liu, the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the CPC coordinated with the organizing committee of the Games and cut the original 80,000 yuan to the current 20,000 yuan. This offer was still rejected by the National Radio. While Liu Qingzao said the fee collecting was just symbolic compared with the high charges of the transmission rights.

A big step towards market economy

"But the charge is not high compared with international standards," said Zhou Hongzhuo, director of the Media Economy Center of Beijing

Broadcasting Institute, "sport is an industry in today's China, and this experiment by the Games is a big step towards the market economy for the Chinese sports industry. The Beijing 2008 Olympics should be run this way to make profits."

"The incident reveals the backward thinking and weak market-oriented sense of the National Radio in running the market," said Zhou, "The move by the Ninth National Games is a starting point and signals China's market economy is progressively becoming mature."

As to Liu Guixing's claim that over-emphasis on the market will detract from social benefits, including the publicity of the national games, Zhou held there is no conflict between economic and social benefits, since a backward economic base always restricts the development of social benefits and publicity.

The professor also said the commercial exchanges between the games and media were actually an approach to running the sports industry, and that a sports' market economy is on its way.



What has the National Radio Station lost or gained from the Ninth National Games?

Photo by Hu Jinxi

Beijing Quickens Pace of 'Easy Access' Construction

- Talking traffic lights
- Bus with braille on board
- Dipped pavements at road junctions
- Wheelchair space in subway

By Li Dan

By the end of this year disabled people will enjoy greater convenience at some of Beijing's famous scenic spots, such as the Forbidden City, Zhongshan Park and Temple of Heaven. Beijing's future buildings and public installations will also conform to standards of an easy-access environment, according to the Beijing Planning Committee.

According to the requirements of relevant government departments, Beijing's new constructions will fully adopt an easy-access plan, including dipping pavements at road junctions, easy-access entrances, passageways and toilets of public buildings; passageways especially for blind people in residential areas or parks; ramps and handrails at the entrance of tall buildings.

For the blind, talking traffic lights, passageways, handrails, and buses with braille on board will be built. For wheelchair and pushchair users, more areas will have sloping road surfaces and even automatic lifts. Easy-access buses and underground trains will appear with sloping

entrances or movable platforms. There will be also wheelchair space in underground trains.

Beijing was among the first three cities in China to launch the pilot project of an easy-access environment in 1985. The initial project mainly aimed at serving disabled people. Now the project will not only serve disabled people but also society at large, including the aged, sick, children and pregnant women.



A lowered phone booth in Xidan Cultural Plaza

Photo by Jackey

Ming City Wall Reappears

By Wang Yanyan

Following the Imperial City Park (Huangchenggen), construction on the Ming City Wall Park has started, and will be completed next year. The park, with no entrance fee, will reconstruct the site of Beijing's ancient Ming city walls, which was originally built during the reign of Emperor Jiajing of the Ming Dynasty (1522-1566).

The city park is mainly based on the remaining city wall of the Ming Dynasty, starting from Dongbianmen, reaching Chongwenmen. In the Ming Dynasty, this section was merely the eastern part of the south city wall of the inner city with a length of around 200 meters, a width of 2.7 meters, and a height of 6 meters.

The Ming City Wall Site Park will encircle Dongbianmen Turret in the east, Beijing Railway Station in the north and Chongwenmen in the west and Chongwenmen East Street in the south, covering a total area of 13 hectares. It is estimated that more than 1800 families will have to be relocated for this project.

3000 Chinese Sturgeons Return to Sea

By Li Dan

3000 one-kilogram young Chinese Sturgeons were returned to the sea at the mouth of Fujian province's Jiulong River last Saturday. This move is intended to further protect and maintain the sturgeon reserves, and is the first time China has returned sturgeons to the sea in such large quantities.

The 3000 young sturgeons, measuring an average length of 50-75 centimeters, all came from Chinese Sturgeon Propagation Base in Xiamen. They are returned to the sea at the mouth of Jiulong River, an area with a plentiful food supply, suitable water temperature and environment. Ten percent of the sturgeons have been marked with silver signs for further scientific research.

Chinese Sturgeon is a kind of rare and wild fish peculiar to China that is among the most ancient vertebrate in the world, and now considered a 'Live Fossil'. Recent years the sturgeon resources have faced a severe threat due to natural and man-made destruction. The problem has aroused the general concern of both fishery administrative departments at different levels and the whole society.

Dragon-well Tea Placed under Protection

By Li Dan

Genuine Longjing tea will enter the market next spring at a reasonable price, with an authenticity seal from the Longjing production area.

The original producing areas of Longjing Tea, also known in English as 'Dragon-well' tea, are now officially under the government's protection, the China National Bureau of Quality Supervision, Inspection & Quarantine recently declared. Only tea from Xihu, Qiantang and Yuezhou in Zhejiang Province will be called Longjing Tea.

Longjing Tea originated in the Old Longjing Temple in Hangzhou city and developed unique picking and processing skills. However, over recent years, this variety of tea has been widely grown and sold in more than 50 towns and cities in Zhejiang Province. Protecting the original producing area will guarantee the quality and reputation of genuine Longjing Tea.

It is said that the original Longjing tea producing area is the fourth to come under protection after Guizhou's Maotai Wine, Shaoxing Wine, and Xuanwei Ham.

Price of PCs Increases

By Xiao Rong

The long-awaited entry to the World Trade Organization (WTO) didn't lead to the further lowering of prices of China's personal computers. Instead, most major personal computers witnessed a new round of price increases last week.

Pentium 4 computer has increased in price by 200 yuan in Zhongguancun Electric Market over the past week. Legend, Tongfang, TCL and Founder, which are all famous Chinese PC brand names, also began to increase the prices of their PC products.

Analysts attribute the phenomenon mainly to three reasons. First, as the former CPU assembly line of Intel companies was being updated, the capability was restricted due to the unprepared state of the new CPU assembly line. Second, with Christmas approaching, there has been a rise in PC sales in the American Market, which has influenced the global supply of CPU. Third, Intel is now monopolizing the market because one of its competitors, AMD Company, has not produced 1.5G CPU yet.

"The above analysis is quite reasonable. Actually, the rise and fall of PC prices mostly depends on the state of competition among international producers, not according to the price alliance of some producers, as some imagined. In addition, the continuing falling PC prices in the first half year has brought PC prices to their lowest. So according to the price law, what comes down will certainly go up at some point," said Xu Chun, from the consumer department of Legend, one of China's largest PC producers.

Tongfang Computer Company of Tsinghua University, also a well-known PC producer, expressed their opinion, "Another reason for the rise of PC prices is due to the price increase of Liquid Crystal Screen, which is mainly due to its continuing price decreases in the first half year," said Wang Zhonghua from the Marketing department.

"It's the routine ordinary readjustment in the profession, and the price change is acceptable. For most customers, they will still buy computers even if prices go up. And they can benefit a lot from higher prices, since the producers will promote their service and products using the margins," Wang added.

PC prices will continue to rise over the next few months, in a 5% range, according to analysts.

China's Seventh Telecom Carrier to be Set up

By Xiao Rong

China Satellite Communications Corp is to be set up by the end of this year, when a satellite will be used to transmit the country's telecom signals.

The long-awaited company is the seventh basic telecom carrier to make its debut, having gained a license to provide Internet access and IP telephone services.

The management team of the fledgling company was announced by the Ministry of Information Industry (MII) on November 6. Zhou Zehe, the present chief of China Telecommunications Broadcast Satellite Corp (ChinaSat), a major component of the new company, will be the president.

The establishment of the new state-owned satellite telecoms giant is part of an industry restructure of China's telecom sector.

Analysts commented that the launch of the new group showed China's determination to speed up the reform of its telecom market after the nation's entry to the World Trade Organization.

Sun TV & Stone Corp — Cross-media Bubble?

By Xiao Rong

A new cross-media company named "Sun-Stone Media Group" made its debut in Hong Kong last Sunday, marking a new round of cross-media maneuvers on the part of Sun TV Cybernetworks, a Hong Kong-based TV company that mainly produces historical and biographical programs.

The new company was jointly launched by Sun TV and Stone Electronic Technology Co. that respectively hold 49% and 51% of the shares. Duan Yongji, president of Stone Group and also one of the best known entrepreneurs in China's IT industry, will be chairman of the board of Sun-Stone. Yang Lan, president of Sun TV and a famous TV host, will be the vice-chairman. Both of them can appoint three directors each.

The post of Chief Executive Officer of the new Group and management committee of the board of directors will go to Wu Zheng, Yang's husband and also former Operative Officer of Asia TV. While Chen Xiaotao, president of Stone Electronic Technology Co., will be president and Chief Operative Officer of the new Group.

Sun-Stone Media Group will focus on three major sectors. First, its Stone New Media Investment Co. will contribute to content supply and customer service based on cable television and other wide band internet transmission platforms.

Second, with Stone Group holding 10.6% of shares of Sina.com, the world's biggest Chinese language web portal, and Sun TV holding 10% of shares of Sina-Sun Group which was incorporated just two months earlier by Sun TV and Sina.com, Sun-Stone Group has thus become the largest investor and shareholder of Sina-Sun Group, holding an overall 20.6% of the shares of Sina.com and also 6% of its future interest.

Moreover, a Media Investment Fund will be set up by the new Sun-Stone Group to raise capital for investment for companies related to new media that show potential.

Duan Yongji, chairman of the new Group, announced that investing in new media would be one of the main strategies of Stone Group. "Stone Group has always been keen on the combination of IT and new media since our investment in Sina.com."

"We will make further cross-media investments and discoveries on a bigger platform to integrate various resources," said CEO Wu Zheng.

Yang Lan expressed her confidence in the cooperation between Sun TV and Stone Group, which was based on the similar deals of the two parties and the complementary characteristics of its content, network, fund and management.

"Sun TV has always contributed in establishing a Chinese cultural enterprise on the basis of new media," she said.

However, some analysts warn that the cross-media strategy of Sun TV and Stone Group might be another bubble after the recession of the internet economy.

Yu Guoming, director of the Media Research Institute of Renmin University, told the Beijing Today reporter that the trend of cross-media was only an inevitable period in the operation of the media industry.

"There are three different periods in the development of the media industry, which are serialization, consolidation and diversification. The cross-media model belongs to the second phase. It means an integration of various forms of media resources to ensure an advantageous and efficient distribution. To this extent, the cooperation between Sun TV and Stone Group can achieve better consolidation between different media."

But Yu also held the opinion that the establishment of the Sun-Stone Media Group was more like a capital operation rather than a practical cooperation.

"The former merger between Sun TV and Sina.com has not led to real operation. So the cooperation between Sun TV and Stone Group can be seen as a continuation attempt."

Sun TV want to acquire dominance

in the future development of Sina.com and combine the two different media together with the help of Stone Group."

"Anyway, the Sun-Stone Group Case has brought a fresh cross-media model to China, from which domestic media can benefit a great deal," Yu added.

The founding of Sun-Stone Media Group is another cross-media maneuver of Sun TV after its merger with Sina.com. Is it a successful capital operation?

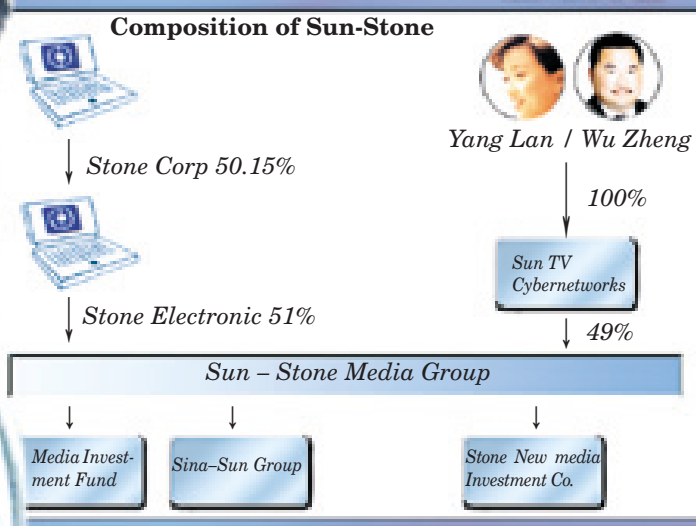


Duan Yongji



Yang Lan

Wu Zheng



Sparkice's Global Exchange platform

Photo by Chen Shuyi

HSBC Enters Partnership with Sparkice

By Xiao Rong

London-based HSBC Holdings plc has invested \$5 million in Beijing-based online trade facilitator Sparkice.com Inc. in exchange for 5% of its shares.

The investment will be used to support the development of an international settlement system on Sparkice's Global Exchange, a business-to-business(B2B) trading platform facilitating online procurement of finished consumer products from manufacturers based in China.

The deal was described as one of the largest investments this year in a China-based Internet company, although modest compared with Sparkice's other speculative investments of over \$30 million.

Edward Zeng, Chairman and CEO of Sparkice Inc., told the Beijing Today reporter that HSBC's investment is a long-term strategy, instead of only a speculative one, "HSBC is a great partner, a right company at a right time."

Sir John Bond, Group Chairman of HSBC Holdings, also expressed his pleasure in cooperating with Sparkice, "In addition to our financial investment, we look forward to working with Sparkice to explore ways in which we can integrate our financial services with Sparkice's trading platform and extend our online network."

Mr. Zeng was also confident about the unique advantages of Sparkice's B2B trading platform, which

he said has attracted HSBC. "Unlike the information-oriented (first generation) and the catalog-oriented (second generation) e-commerce model, the Sparkice Global Exchange is China's first third generation e-commerce platform that can directly conduct international transactions. Plus, we have detailed plans for each process of a transaction."

Launched in April 2001, Sparkice now has a major client database of more than 2000 domestic manufacturers and suppliers registered in its Global Exchange, selling some 44,000 products overseas, mainly to businesses.

Mr. Zeng expected profits would at the earliest be forthcoming next spring, "Analysts have predicted China's e-commerce industry would grow to over \$50 billion by 2005, and as China's leading B2B providers, Sparkice Global Exchange will strive to acquire over 10% of the market share, which will be \$5 billion of online transaction. That may be another reason why HSBC invested on the settlement system of the trading platform."

Wang Juntao, former CEO of a once famous e-commerce website MY8848.com, said that it's amazing for Sparkice to be able to attract HSBC's investment in the slump of the whole IT industry, "The investment of HSBC is more like an industry investment instead of a speculative one. It's not Sparkice.com but Sparkice Inc., the whole company, that has enjoyed the investment," Wang concluded.

David Chu — Golf Impresario of the East?

By Shan Jinliang

Tiger Woods, the world's most valued sportsman of the Year 2000, came to Shenzhen last weekend to take part in the BBG 'Tiger Woods' Mission Hills Challenge. Although Woods was defeated by 29-year-old Chen Yuchan from Chinese Taipei, he was happy to be paid 2 million dollars.

But the happier person should be Dr. David S. H. Chu, Chairman of Asia's largest golf club, the Mission Hills of Shenzhen. Analysts say he is set to make several million dollars along with a load of free publicity for his club from 200 international and domestic TV stations. Most surprisingly, the ten square kilometers' land, with five 18-hole international championship-standard golf courses, a Country Club with 51 tennis courts, and a 5-star hotel was actually a wasteland eight years ago.

The current Mission Hills Town, where the club is now located, featured at the end of a list of 18 poverty-combating towns. When he decided to plough two billion HK dollars into the land to open a golf course, experts said building the course would be extremely costly due to hilly terrain and a lack of sand, stones, not to mention the acidic soil in need of transformation. In the end, his partners abandoned their investment.

Chu saw his future linked to the long-term construction plan of the local government. The Mission Hills Town is now an hour's drive from the center of

Hong Kong and the prosperous Pearl River Delta area upon completion of the Pearl River Delta Highway, which brings huge advantages to the club.

From 1993, Chu worked to bid for the 1995 Golf World Cup. Two years later the World Cup proved to be a great success, which brought about the construction of the highway. The fee for club membership climbed from \$50,000 to the current \$150,000.

Now the golf course is valued at 5.8 billion HK dollars, an increment of 3.8 billion. From then a series of important international golf competitions have been held in the club.

After the success of these events, Chu invited Tiger Woods to play in the Mission Hills Golf Club.

"In fact we had planned to invite him more than two years ago," said Chu, "with the growing of China's overall strength and development of the country's golf drive, Woods had a strong desire to come to China."

The two sides signed the final contract this May with the help of Jack Nicklaus, Ernie Els and other renowned golfers extending their invitations.

Chu contributed a great deal to Beijing's Olympics bidding as the only non-governmental member of the Chinese delegation in Moscow this July. It seems nobody knows what such fame and fortune will bring him. The question remains, what next?



Opening Up Timetable Encourages Foreign Banks

By Zhao Hongyi

On the day China was officially admitted to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Doha, Qatar, on November 11, the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, announced its long-prepared timetable for the gradual opening up of China's banking industry.

Based on the promises the country made to fellow members in the WTO, the Bank declared it would grant full national treatment status to foreign banks within five years from now, affirmed its determination to continue with the reforms currently undergoing in the country's financial industry, and urged its domestic banks to strive for higher efficiency and adopt international standard practices.

Foreign banks will be allowed to provide services in foreign currencies to Chinese customers, both ventures and individuals, from the beginning of next year.

On the restrictions on types of services and targeted customers, the spokesman for the Bank said that, aside from the services in foreign currencies, foreign banks will be allowed to provide services in Renminbi to Chinese ventures within two years, or at least from



Overseas banks and financial institutions have long waited for access to China's market

Photo by Qu Liyan

the year 2004. Within five years, or from the year 2007, banks will be allowed to provide all types of services in different currencies to their Chinese clients, whether ventures or individuals. All restrictions currently in force regard-

ing the establishment of banks will be completely phased out by then.

In addition, also from the year 2007, foreign financial institutions will be allowed to provide financial services to Chinese customers like car loans and other finan-

cial services.

Regarding to the regions to be opened, the spokesman for the Bank said that from its official entry, which is believed to be next month, China would start to eliminate restrictions gradually.

The first group of cities to be opened in 2002 include Shenzhen, Shanghai, Dalian and Tianjin; Guangzhou, Qingdao, Nanjing and Wuhan will join within two years; Jinan, Fuzhou, Chengdu and Chongqing will be in the third wave within three years; Kunming, Zhuhai, Beijing and Xiamen within four years; Shantou, Ningbo, Shenyang and Xi'an within five years. Five years from now, at the beginning of 2007, restrictions on regions will be eliminated completely.

According to the spokesman, by the end of September this year, a total of 190 operating outlets of foreign banks had been existing in China. Among them, 158 were branches and 6 were sub-branches. The total assets of these outlets amounted to \$44 billion, of which \$18.6 billion were credit on loan and \$6.5 billion were deposits received. Most of these branches and sub-branches were located in Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, Guangzhou and Tianjin.

Personnel Intermediaries Granted Passports to China

By Zhao Hongyi

China's State Administration of Foreign Experts' Affairs (SAFEA) recently issued quality evaluation certificates to more than 200 overseas personnel intermediaries. The step indicates China's personnel market has officially opened to talent from overseas.

At the opening ceremony of the "2001 Conference on International Exchange of Professionals (CIEP2001)", jointly held in Nanjing by SAFEA and the provincial government of Jiangsu on November 6-9, some of the award recipients committed to recommend more foreign experts to China.

Of the 210 intermediaries, 27 have an economic background, 37 have a cultural and educational background, 132 provide training courses and facilities, and the remaining 14 are so called "headhunters", helping to introduce specific professionals required by their clients.

It is believed that some of the award recipients will form part of the first group to operate business in China's personnel market. This is because foreign personnel intermediaries have to obtain evaluation certificates before operating businesses in China, according to sources from SAFEA.

Zhongguancun Opens International Employment Market

By Shan Jinliang

Beijing Zhongguancun has recently set up an international employment market, which is currently running on a trial basis, declared Wan Xueyuan, director of the State Administration of Foreign Experts' Affairs in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province.

Supported by the State Administration of Foreign Experts' Affairs, the market was established by the China International Employment Exchange Association. The market deals with international employment services for international and domestic clients from all walks of life. Various exhibition arenas have been built. The relevant formalities for employing foreign experts and implementing overseas training will be processed through the market.

The market has set up two bilingual websites: www.chinajob.com and www.caiep.org. The first one mainly provides three services: job vacancies, resume center and online experts' forum system. The second website includes an enquiries' hotline, employment exchange guide, resources center and introduction to the Beijing Institute of Economic Management.

3.1 Billion Bad Assets Up for Auction

By Zhao Hongyi

China Great Wall Asset Management Corporation will launch a series of auctions in mid-December to dissipate bad assets. The total assets for sale amount to 3.133 billion yuan, and the number of projects involved reaches 243, sources from the corporation said.

According to Mr. Wang Xinyi, president of the corporation, an open auction is one of the three steps Great Wall will take to dissolve the bad assets in its possession. The other two steps include recommending 200 additional bad asset projects online and asset restructuring for better sales.

Great Wall, together with Huarong, Orient and Cinda are the four state-owned asset management corporations, focusing on handling the non-performing loans (NPLs) received from the four state-owned commercial banks. The total NPLs received in 1999, when the four corporations were established, reached 1400 billion yuan.

CSRC & MOFTEC: FIEs To Publicly Issue Shares

Foreign Investors Must Hang on to 10%

By Zhao Hongyi

Foreign invested enterprises (FIEs) will be allowed to issue shares on China's stock markets, both A-shares (in Renminbi) and B-share (in US dollars and other foreign currencies). Their foreign capital share will not be lower than 10% of their total shares to be issued, according to the notice jointly released last week by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) and China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC).

- Currently, foreign investors are required to hold at least 25 percent of the total shares in their joint ventures in China. The notice allows re-registration of these FIEs in terms of legal status and other legal procedures, once they issue public shares and change the percentages.

- FIEs have to pass the annual checks in the three consecutive years prior to public listing, and must meet all requirements listed in relevant notices and regulations for initial public offerings (IPOs).

- Enterprises in which Chinese partners are required by laws and regulations to hold a majority of shares or a comparative majority should retain the pattern of share holdings after listing.

- For a given period of time, already issued and untradable shares of FIEs are not allowed to be traded, unless necessary approvals are granted.

- After issuing, untradable FIE B-shares have to meet two criteria before publicly traded on market: owners of untradable B-shares issued can not get the approval to sell these shares unless he/she has held these shares for at least one year; and upon approval, they must continue to hold the shares for another year before public trading.

- In addition, FIEs can issue IPOs on overseas markets once they qualify for the requirements as listed by CSRC.

China Prepares for Hollywood Invasion

By Zhao Hongyi

China is preparing for a readjustment of the country's film production industry to defend against the possible influx of Hollywood films after its entry to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

According to the initiative being drafted by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, the current film production industry, which is diversified into almost each province, autonomous region and municipality, will be reformed into six groups located in Beijing, Shanghai, Changchun, and Guangdong, Sichuan and Shaanxi provinces.

Mr. Xu Guangchun, director-general of the Administration, told reporters last week in Beijing that the three groups in Beijing, Shanghai and Changchun will be the heavyweights, while the other three in Guangdong, Sichuan and Shaanxi will take on a more modest, regional role.



Photo by Zhuang Jian

Compared with its counterparts in the United States, China's film production industry lags far behind in terms of equipment, science and technology, expertise, management framework, market exploration and business practice.

As stipulated in the market access agreement reached by China and the U.S. for WTO entry, once China becomes a member of the organization, it has to increase the minimum number of American films imported each year from the current 10 up to 20, and to a further 50 in three years.

At the 12th South Korea-China Trade and Economic Cooperation Fair, Mr. Kweon Chun Gwi, director of the Seoul Cultural and Trade Center in Beijing says

“We Attach Great Importance to Beijing and China”



“Small and medium-sized enterprises play an important role in the development of bilateral relations, aside from multinationals,” emphasized Mr. Kweon Chun Gwi

Photo by Zhuang Jian

By Zhao Hongyi

“We are looking for a sales agent, both of products and technologies,” said Mr. Lee Sang-Wook, president of Iksung Telecom Co. Ltd., a small company devoted to IT games development from Seoul, South Korea.

At the 12th Sino-Korea Trade Conference held November 14 in Beijing, nearly 30 small and medium-sized enterprises from South Korea underwent business contacts and negotiations with their Chinese counterparts. Most of the Korean enterprises are from industries such as IT, electronics, communications, environmental protection and transportation.

“We used to have business in

Taiwan and Hong Kong. It's time to come to China directly by ourselves,” said Mr. J. H. Kim, manager of the R&D Department of Union Watch Co. Ltd. The company has recently developed a new style quartz watch decorated with jades of different colors.

The Sino-Korea Trade Conference is held twice a year by the Seoul Culture & Trade Center, the representative office of the Seoul metropolitan government in Beijing, together with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Beijing branch. With the organizers becoming more and more sophisticated, the fair is now enjoying a high profile both in South Korea and China.

“Our center is dedicated to promoting communication and exchange of administrative, economic, social, cultural and sports affairs,” explained Mr. Kweon Chun Gwi, director of the Seoul Cultural and Trade Center in Beijing.

According to statistics, in the first half of this year, bilateral trade amounted to \$15.42 billion, of which China's exports to South Korea occupied \$6.26 billion and imports \$9.16 billion, an increase of 1.7 percent and 6.4 percent respectively over the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, investment from South Korea to China has also reached a peak of \$4.46 billion.

“We Know There Is A Demand For Education Here”

By Zhao Hongyi

“We know the educational market in Asia, particularly in China and India, is immense. That is why the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business (Chicago GSB) opened its branch in Singapore,” Ms. Beth Bader, the managing director of the executive MBA program (EMBA) Asia of Chicago GSB told Beijing Today in an interview while she was in China taking information sessions on her EMBA program in Singapore.

Ms. Bader is right. MBA certificates have been in high demand in China for the past several years, making the MBA program the hottest. In Beijing, hundreds of MBA programs have opened, even though the price for such a MBA program has risen as high as 70,000-80,000 yuan.

“Chicago GSB is the first to conduct a MBA program in 1898 and the first again to offer an executive MBA (EMBA) program in 1943, which was

designed for successful business managers looking for a higher business education in a flexible time schedule,” explained Ms. Bader.

In 1996, Chicago GSB set up its first branch in Barcelona, Spain. In 2000, the second branch school was launched in Singapore in 2000.

“It's a two way process of our educational business in Asia,” said Ms. Bader. “We offer the best and most sophisticated EMBA program to this region to meet the demand. In the meantime, we also absorb the cultures in Asia along with local business stories and cases to enrich our educational content.”

Concerning the possibility of launching the EMBA program in China, Ms. Bader said, “I had a discussion with experts from the Beida MBA program during this trip, and hope we can open a non-degree program of business administration sometime in the future.”

'Life Bank' Opens to Public

By Sun Ming

The first bank depositing cord blood for newborn babies in China opened the public recently. The special bank, which is also called 'life bank', was established by the Peking Union Medical College and is located in Tianjin.

According to Zheng Weiwei, a consultant at the bank, parents can store cord blood for their baby there. If their baby needs it, the

cord blood will be available.

Cord blood is so called because it comes from the umbilical cord of a newborn baby. According to Zheng, cord blood has large amounts of stem cells, which play a very important role in the treatment of certain diseases, such as leukemia and aplastic anemia. Stem cells also play a key role in the formation of blood cells.

According to Zhang Yi, the di-

rector of the department of gynecology and obstetrics of the Beijing Hospital, stem cells can be compared to seeds. When they are transplanted into the body of patients, lots of red blood cells, white blood cells, blood platelets and so on will be derived from them.

"It's necessary to store cord blood for newborn babies," said Zheng. According to him, the transplant of stem cells from cord blood

has more advantages than that of stem cells from bone marrow. If patients have their own store of cord blood, they needn't worry about the source of the stem cells, and the risk of rejection is reduced.

Lu Min, a doctor at the bank, added that the transplant of stem cells extracted from cord blood is also an important therapy in the treatment of cancer.

Mother Donates Liver to Daughter

By Sun Ming

The first liver transplant from a living donor in Beijing was conducted on November 12 at the Beijing University Hospital. Up to now, both the recipient and the donor are in a stable condition.

In order to save her 12-year-old daughter, who was suffering serious hepatocirrhosis, 41-year-old Men Dehuan, a farmer from Hebei province, donated nearly three fifths of her liver.

Three years ago, Men's daughter Chen Huanhuan was diagnosed with the disease, and her condition became steadily worse.

On November 1, the little girl was hospitalized, on the verge of death. After a slight recovery, Men and her husband were told that the only thing that could help their daughter was a liver transplant.

Men and her husband both had the idea of donating part of their own livers to Huanhuan, but the liver of Men's husband was deemed unsuitable after inspection, according to Wan Yuanlian, the director of the surgical department of the hospital.

According to Wan, there are two steps in the liver transplant, which was conducted in two operating rooms. In the first step,

they removed three fifths of the mother's liver, and in the second step, they transplanted it into the daughter's body. Some fifty to sixty doctors and nurses were involved in the transplant. Chen Zhaolian, a renown expert on liver transplants from Taiwan, was invited to assist in performing the operation.

Wan said that liver has the ability to regenerate so there was little risk to the mother. Her liver will grow back to its previous size. "She will turn to live a normal life in about ten days, while the daughter will recover in at least three months."

According to the director of pediatric surgery, Li Long, liver transplant from a living body has many advantages, for example doctors can choose the best day for both patients; and in the case of mother and daughter, there is little risk of rejection after the operation.

Such operations have been conducted widely overseas. However, due to technical limitations, liver transplants from a living body have only been performed in south China in the past two years, and this was the first such operation in north China.

Dedicated to Environmental Protection

By Ivy Zhang

"I started to get involved with China 25 years ago when I was 19 years old. At that time I chose the major of Sinology - everything that has to do with China, Chinese history, language, China economy - at Free University of Berlin."

Dr. Eva Sternfeld, 44, is director of reference, research & institutional exchange at the China Environment and Sustainable Development Reference and Research Center (CESDRRC), at the Center for Environmental Education & Communication. Her main fields of expertise are environmental education and water management.

She first came to China in 1979 for a language program in Beijing, and since then, has returned almost every year. In 1980, Eva joined a research project called China Technological Development & Environment. At that time, she was still a student and her responsibility was to translate Chinese materials. Through this project, she got into the field of environment studies, though she knew little about China's environment or environmental problems. From 1980, Eva discovered by reading Chinese newspapers that there was a great deal of discussion about environmental problems in China.

In 1985, Eva got her M.A. and wrote a book about China's environmental policy. The following year, she came to Peking University to study geography on a postgraduate scholarship for a period of two and a half years. During that time, her

research focused on urban development in Beijing and water management. Back in Germany, Eva gave lectures at universities and worked as a freelance advisor for developmental aid organizations. Since 1999, Eva has worked full-time at CEEC.

In 1998, Eva participated in a rescue project called the Black River Project, sponsored by Berlin University. The project was based in a city called Ejina, in Inner Mongolia, where three rivers converge 30 km from the border with Mongolia.

Ejina was once an oasis on which an ancient city named Kara Khoto (meaning black city) was built.

Back in 1930, a Swedish geographer Sven Hedin visited Ejina and described it in a book as "a vast green plain". However, due to water shortages, two rivers flowing through the city have dried up. It is said that Ejina is to disappear in 10 years.

"The purpose of our Black River project is to look into the reasons of desertification, both human impact and climate changes," Eva said. "It is important to adopt a policy to improve the situation."

Founded in 1988, CESDRRC is part of CEEC and consists of a library, bookshop, training center, research center and environmental English corner.

Open hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm

Location: Rm. 701 Sino-Japanese Friendship Environmental Protection Center, 1 Yu Hui Nan Lu (朝阳区育慧南路1号中日友好环境保护中心701室)



Eva Sternfeld
Photo by Qiu Binbin

Bid for Casino Gaming Licenses in Macao

By Chen Ying

A total of 22 bidders are vying for the concession licenses to manage casino games in Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) from November 2. The Tender Committee for the Concession of Licenses to Operate Casino Games will meet individually with all bidders after the tender procedure closes on December 7.

Interested parties include enterprises from Macao, Hong Kong, East Asia, the United States and the United Kingdom.

The Tender Committee is comprised of eight members, including government officials in the areas of economy, gaming supervision, tourism and trade promotions, legal affairs and monetary affairs.

Besides the establishment of this committee, Chief Executive of Macao Edmund Ho Hao Wah also

instituted a dispatch that regulates the premium of the gaming contracts at MOP 30 million annually.

According to relevant regulations passed by the SAR Legislative Assembly in August, the SAR government will concede three licenses to operate casino games at most.

Sociedade de Turismo e Diverso es de Macau (S.T.D.M.) has held the casino gaming licenses alone since 1962. The contract with the government will expire in December 31 this year. The SAR Government advertised in the local and international media and on the Internet in early October, inviting parties interested in bidding for gaming licenses to submit expressions of interest. The SAR government says it is dedicated to creating a favorable environment in order to attract more foreign investors to Macao.



Experts get some expert tuition in Chinese

Photo by Zou Weilin

New 'Chinese Corner' in Beijing

By Ivy Zhang

The Chinese Culture Club launched Table Talk as a recently, a kind of Chinese corner, to give expats an opportunity to practice and learn Chinese.

The social event is held every Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 9:30 and comprises of two parts, conversation and Chinese lesson. During the first hour and a half, expats have dinner with three or four local people and chat in Chinese. After dinner, everyone moves to a long table for group learning, with a young Chinese instructor. A couple of topics are discussed at each session, involving frequently used words and sentences in daily life.

"Sometimes when I want to say something in

Chinese, there are one or two words I don't know, or the way I say it is a little bit wrong. So it's very useful when people correct that," says Edwin Baak from Holland.

"To introduce myself and what I do, is something I do all the time, even to taxi drivers. I can do this quite well." Edwin, who once attended a course in Spain and found they were still introducing themselves seven weeks later because of newcomers, voiced his expectations about this activity, "What I need is a bit of practice talking about hobbies, jobs, reasons why you come here as well as the economy."

If you are interested in participating in Table Talk, check page 15 for more info.

What Will You Do If You Find 150,000 Yuan?

By Sun Ming

Last Thursday was a memorable day for Lin Liang, the head of a private company in Beijing. That day, he lost and found again his briefcase, which contained cash and goods worth 150,000 yuan, thanks to an honest woman from Harbin.

At about five that morning, Wang Yuxia, a peddler found a small briefcase on Kuanjie Street. Much to her surprise, the briefcase contained property worth some 150,000 yuan.

"To be frank, I hesitated about what to do when I opened the briefcase," said Wang afterwards. According to her, there was 4,087 yuan's cash and five passbooks in it, as well as some transfer checks and invoices.

However, rather than pocketing the contents and saying nothing, Wang took the briefcase to Dongs Police Station. Not long after, the briefcase was returned to its owner.

"She refused to take the 4,000 yuan I offered her. I just wanted to express my gratitude," said

the owner Lin Liang. According to him, Wang could easily have obtained 50,000 yuan, as the five passbooks had no secret codes.

Wang says her honesty was inspired by the acts of a policewoman named Gong Haiying. Three years ago, Wang's husband died of illness and left many debts. One disaster followed another as she lost her job and then her uncle in Beijing was diagnosed with cancer. In order to take care of him, Wang left Harbin with her eight-year-old daughter for the capital, where she met many new difficulties.

According to Wang, Gong Haiying, a policewoman at Dongs Police Station, learned of her desperate situation by chance. From that time on, Gong helped her selflessly. With Gong's help, her daughter was able to resume her study and Wang married again this year.

"I was deeply moved by her virtue. I would be sorry to Gong if I hadn't returned the briefcase," said Wang frankly.

Duck Down, Goose Down, Eiderdown!

By Chen Ying

Making duvets to order has become a popular business in the Wangfujing Department Store recently. The gross sales from this service, which originates from Southern China, surpassed 250 thousand yuan at the department store last month alone.

Salespeople are kept busy introducing various kinds of duck and goose down. For instance, down-pillows usually contain 60-70 percent down, while duvets might contain 90 percent down.

According to one salesperson, if the room temperature is 15 centigrade, the quantity of duck's down needed to make an eiderdown for one person is 0.75 kilograms. Less is needed when using goose down.

"Customers become particular about the living quality. They want the duvet to be warmer, softer,



Showing the different types of down

Photo by Liran

more fluffy and even. We adopt the new technology to make the duvet on-the-spot. Clients are satisfied with such production," said another salesperson.

By Sun Ming

In order to avoid going to prison two years ago, a 25-year-old newspaper vendor who killed a man in a fight, feigned insanity. However, after just 5 days in an asylum, he couldn't bear any more and confessed. This month, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

According to Zhang Xudong, he quarreled with the victim Li over a small matter on the afternoon of September 20, 1999. Li threatened Zhang with a pair of scissors, and as Zhang told the court, in order to defend himself, he stabbed Li two times, resulting in Li's death.

On the evening of the same day, at the urging of his aunt, Zhang gave himself up to the police. But in the hearing room, he feigned insanity. Zhang explained that he knew a person

deemed insane could not be sent to jail.

"It was easy for me to pretend to be crazy," said Zhang. In order to convince the experts, he pretended he thought he was a scientist who was conducting an important research. He said he didn't miss his parents at all and would like to stay in jail. He also told the experts that lots of people wanted to set a trap for him.

At last, he was diagnosed with schizophrenia and instead of being sent to jail, he lived in a room with eight others and had to take medicine three times a day, even though he was healthy.

"It was terrible living with those crazy people all day and all night," said Zhang. According to him, he lived in a room with eight others and had to take medicine three times a day, even though he was healthy.

"Even though I needn't worry about food and clothes, all I could do day and night was just eat and sleep, it was heart-breaking. I don't want to face all kinds of mentally ill people every day."

According to Zhang, he made up his mind to tell the truth to his doctor just five days after he was sent there, because he couldn't bear it any more.

"Of course I knew I would be punished seriously, but I would rather live with sane criminals than in an asylum," Zhang said. In a second session with psychiatrists, Zhang was diagnosed as being completely sane.

Zhang stood in court at last on November 2. According to the judges, even though he insisted that Li had threatened him with a pair of scissors, witnesses said that they were no more than a

toy. His plea of self-defense was dismissed, and Zhang was sentenced to 10 years in prison.



No longer pleading insanity

Photo by Wang Xiaodong

Trick or Truth?

Undercover Reporters Roam a World without Rules



By Chen Ying

Guanshengyuan factory in Nanjing was captured on TV using stale ingredients in its traditional desserts. Some ingredients had been sitting in the refrigerator more than a year. Overnight, sales of all brands plummeted.

The scandal rocked the nation but it only came about through a painstaking one-year undercover investigation by CCTV reporters at one of the country's most famous mooncake manufacturers.

According to Wei Yongzheng, a researcher, News Institute of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, there is a reporter who found his bride was engaged in selling drugs just after they married. He had the idea of investigating the whole procedure of selling drugs and interviewing people involved instead of reporting the matter to police.

Through his wife's arrangements, he twice shuttled between China and Myanmar and observed the drug smuggling process. He ferried 2 kilos of the drug across the border. Although he had planned to hand it over to the police, the dealer collected his consignment early.

Finally he felt he was in fact a participant in drug sales. After thinking about his decision for a long time, he handed himself over to the police.

In Beijing and across China today, there is a new breed of reporters so devoted to undercover investigations they will sometimes seem to seek to entrap people, employing secret cameras or asking leading questions.

Yet no laws exist to restrain, protect or guide their behavior. But what exactly are the limits to a legitimate undercover investigation? How to define these limits? How to safeguard reporters who risk their

lives uncovering ugly truths that lurk within our society? These questions merit serious attention. Opinions follow:

Wu Zidong, investigative reporter, Beijing Youth Daily

I have conducted more than 30 investigations. I always remain an observer who simply records the facts. This kind of news is exciting, real and attractive to readers. Personally, I relish the challenge of this job. I don't tell my family before I begin investigating some issue. I'm afraid they will worry about my safety. It's incorrect to think of an investigative reporter as some kind of untouchable superman. Reporters must also abide by the law.

I want to mention investigative issues are also often stumbled across by accident, not necessarily through the seeking out of targets. Reporters must confine themselves to reporting issues as they break, not instigating their own ideas for a story.

I once got a lead on a secret casino in Hubei province. But when I went there, there wasn't any action for several days. A local friend suggested I splashed some cash around to lure out the businessmen and gamblers. But I felt it was unsuitable both for journalistic ethics and legality. So I didn't do it.

Not all news needs to be investigated in this way. There is no barrier to openly reporting some kinds of news at all. It's ridiculous to entrap people through using the secret investigative form when the news might just as easily be gotten through normal channels. It's also very unfair on those parties.

Shang Lili, accountant, Beijing Sanhuan Real Estate Company

Investigation is the basic mission

of a reporter. I support reporters who investigate the issues beneficial to the common people and social development.

Reporters should abide by their profession's morals and codes of conduct. It's just grandstanding sometimes when reporters use stories to become famous themselves or make money.

Opinions of investigative journalism vary from region to region. In Beijing and Shanghai, people are rather tolerant. But it quickly becomes very difficult to continue an investigation in the more remote cities as word of an incident spreads quickly.

So investigative reporters must mind their safety. It's very odd that the government doesn't make law to protect reporters' safety. There are many laws to protect employees in other fields. It's hard to do this job without some level of government support.

Si Qi, clerk, Huaxia Stock Company

As an occupation, reporting is sacred to my mind. It's their heroic investigations that most impress me. Thanks to reporters' efforts, people can obtain real and important information quickly.

There is one thing I want to mention. It's well-known that many investigations may be dangerous. So investigative reporters must learn to protect themselves and remain vigilant.

Liu Lijie, judge, Fengtai District People's Court

I care more about the character and motives of the reporter than the investigation itself. The most important thing is the reporter's motives for doing the story. The reactions of people to some issues can be totally

different from the reporters' intentions.

The mission of reporters is to report incidents objectively. It's a sad state of affairs when they just want to sensationalize issues. Reporters should be faithful to their profession morals.

Reporters must understand it might be dangerous to conduct an investigation. There is as yet no law to protect investigative reporters. They have to take care of themselves because they don't get any extra protection from the law. As regards the law, it's not an adequate excuse to simply say you are an investigative reporter when you participate in some illegal act.

Tong Lang, law postgraduate student, University of International Business and Economics

Everybody has the right to know something about an issue. But there should be boundaries between their right to know and others' privacy. In China, there isn't no exact legal definition about these boundaries. It's sparks considerable controversy among legal experts.

Customers have the right to know details about the goods they buy. At trial, there are two main opinions about evidence obtained without a party's consent or knowledge. First, according to Chinese law, this evidence is illegal and shouldn't be accepted as evidence. But some experts believe that in some special situations where the degree of illegality is slight and the evidence has important bearing on the case, the court should not reject it. Although this evidence should not be regarded as final proof, it may be useful in making a fairer judgment.

Photos by Wu Zidong

SOUND BITES

"We no longer have to intimidate each other to reach agreements. Security is created not by piles of metal or weapons. It is created by the political will of people, nation states and their leaders."

— Russian President Vladimir Putin said after three hours of summit with USA President George W Bush at the White House

"The EU is the big loser here and it thoroughly deserves it. For the last three years, developing countries and NGOs [non-governmental organizations] have been telling them that the developing world doesn't want to be burdened with negotiations on new issues that they don't understand and have no interest in. The EU has now dragged the whole world to Doha to be told the same thing. It's unbelievable arrogance."

— Duncan Green, policy adviser for Cafod, the Catholic aid agency.

"Without genuine and lasting security, nothing will be possible, let alone the establishment of a new government."

— Lakhdar Brahimi, UN special envoy to Afghanistan.

By Chen Ying

北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

房地产版(英文版)
让我们和太阳一起升起

《北京青年报·房地产版(英文版)》是《北京青年报》每周五推出的房地产及相关的广告专版,其英文版随报发行媒体优势不言而喻。根据房产客户的需求,让公司决策层直接阅读到相关内容,更具针对性,力争使客户的广告效力发挥至最大!

Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, which is pressed every Friday, is a new advertising special one for the real estate and relative industries. The English Edition is delivered with the newspaper so the media advantage is very obvious. Real Estate Edition in English of Beijing Youth Daily, aiming at the advertiser's requests for the more pertinence, let the policy-makers read the relative content directly and try to reach the most advertisement effectiveness

HOT TEL: 13910419797 84014823

Dart Foreign Affairs Management Office

*Yard architecture with European style
*sufficient parking space, convenient traffic, complete facilities and offering service around the day

**Dart Commerce Office

1. it is located between CBD center and Guomao

2. favourable price: RMB3-4 yuan/squaremeter/day

3. telephone number: 65032597 or 64951817

**Dart Commerce Garden

1. it is located in the New Olympic sphere and it is between foreign account office and the Chinese-Japanese Hospital

2. favourable price: RMB 2.8-3.5 yuan/squaremeter/day

3. telephone number: 65032097 or 65032598

My company also has open separate foreign office building with 15000 square meter to be sold (including property right). It is located in north-eastern corner of Siyuan Bridge.

龙潭涉外公寓

LONGTAN APARTMENTS

from \$500/month. 34-110 sq.m (studio, 1-2 bedrooms)

· Fully furnished with satellite TV, IDD appliances.

· 24-hour hot water, security, plentiful parking

· near the Temple of Heaven, Chongwen District

call now for more details.

67115358 67128749



WARWICK INTERNATIONAL APARTMENTS

Were we do our job... So you can do yours.

Special recommended villa at Lido are

\$6000/29spm/3br/fully furnished

TEL: (010) 67151166 ext. 3005/3006



赛特饭店 SCITECH HOTEL
BUSINESS FLOOR ON LINE

Business Floor Standard Room: USD98+15%SC

Business Floor Suite: USD138+15%SC

Business Floor Duplex Suite: USD300+15%SC

Express check in & check out Free use 3DDS Internet Lines

One free buffet in Coffee Shop per day Daily newspaper & Magazine Free use

swimming pool, GYM and sauna Free income faxes

Daily happy hours: (17:30-18:30) Welcome amenities on arrival

One piece free pressing per day

ADD: No. 22 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing 10004 P.R. China

Tel: 8610-65123388

Fax: 8610-65123542

E-mail: sthotel@w.com.cn

City Plaza (Phase) And
Palace International

Address: 3A, Shi Lipu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

Transportation: conveniently close to Chaoyang Road, Jingtong

Express Way, and Ciyunsi Bridge of the 4th Ring Road

Services: Receptionist (Lobby), Tickets, Room Service, Home Maid,

Room Cleaning, Home Appliance Repairs, and Flowers.

Rental Returns: USD900.00-2200 per month

Current Occupation Rate: Offices: 100% Department 95.7%

Business Tax: 0.4%

Management Fees: Palace International: RMB800 per square meter per month for Cleaning, Security (in-door and out-door) Vegetation, Elevators, Elevators, Minor Repairs, Room.

HOT TEL: 65561798

You Couldn't

Address yourself Better in Beijing!

Clients may also enjoy the following benefits:

#24-hour room service

#Underground Parking

#Business Centre

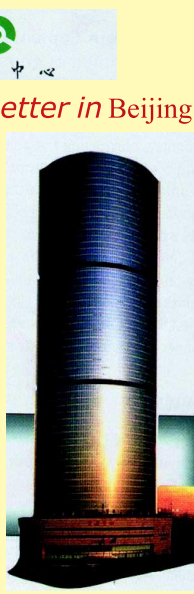
#15% discount at best on food & beverage, shopping and recreational area

Cal use now to arrange for a site inspection to find out more.

Mr. Ashley Wong, Property Manager at

Tel: (86-10) 65973388 ext. 1400

Fax: (86-10) 65978182



保罗大厦

◇ To South of Landao building, it's new building

◇ Area: 3500m2-4000m2, 430spm/per floor

◇ This building is available to Bank, Negotiable Securities, Business Center, restaurant etc.

◇ 24 hours security & hot water

Tel: 65958081 65958060

Mobil: 13701350511

13910890956

Add: No. 38 Chao Wai Avenue

Chao Yang district Beijing

Sunflower Tower

盛福大厦

Investors: Philipp Holzmann Anlagen GmbH

Location: No. 37, Maizidian Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing. Next to the Liangma Hotel. Located at the East 3rd Ring Road

Area: 817 square meters (based on architectural area) on 24th Floor

Asking rent: USD28/month/sqm (gross including management)

Communication: Supplied nodes IDD lines and 4MB of Capacity

ISDN is available

Elevator: 10 KONE elevators HVAC System: Four-pipe system

Amenities: Business center, Exhibition facilities, Retail space

Existing Tenants: Walt Disney, BASY, KONE, E-turtle Next

work

Tel: 85275696-608



中国人寿大厦
CHINA LIFE TOWER

租售热线:

Enquiry hotline:

65886868

Developer:

Beijing Zhong Ba

xin Real Estate

development Ltd

Designer:

RTKL Company



北京市国宾大厦

BEIJING AMBASSADOR MANSION

Ambassador Mansion

Good News!

Newly decorated apartments and offices

Apartment styles Available!

Range from 1 bedroom to 4 bedroom

USD1000/month up

Office Styles

Next area from 20m2-1600m2

Ambassador Mansion

is an excellent choice for your business

or life For more information

Call us at 010-64384093

or fax on 010-64380148

寻求合作

本公司欲求东二环东三环附近写字楼式办公楼进行合作。要求: 手续合法, 价格合理, 中介免谈, 真心合作者请来电: 64055786

this newspaper's perennial legal adviser: Beijing jingtai law office undertaking mostly:

1. real estate business that buy, rent and manage kinds of licences in Beijing;

2. foreign cases, maritime, finance, bond, important and difficult affairs;

3. debt, economy contract, foreign marriage cases, criminal defense;

4. notarizations;

5. holding perennial legal advisers for foreign enterprises, providing legal assistance;

6. providing law, regulations and contract versions in any languages.

TEL: 86-10-83511218

FAX: 86-10-83525557

http://www.venus-law.com

e-mail: jt@venus-law.com

What is the significance of WTO entry for Chinese people and enterprises?

By Su Wei

Few people here will be unaware of the fact that China entered the World Trade Organization this week. The issue has been the subject of intensive media coverage and analysis by countless experts and commentators.

But what are the attitudes of ordinary Chinese people towards WTO entry, how do local businesses expect to be affected, and have they made sufficient preparations for the changes WTO membership will bring?

Horizon Research surveyed 2120 people in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Beijing and Chengdu, as well as 322 enterprises with registered capital of more than 1 million yuan in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou to find out.

Young people see more benefits

Almost 70% of people age between 18 and 35 expect to benefit from China's entry to the WTO, compared with 55% for people aged between 46 and 65.

It may be that young people see China's accession as an historic opportunity. They are more likely to look at the issue objectively.

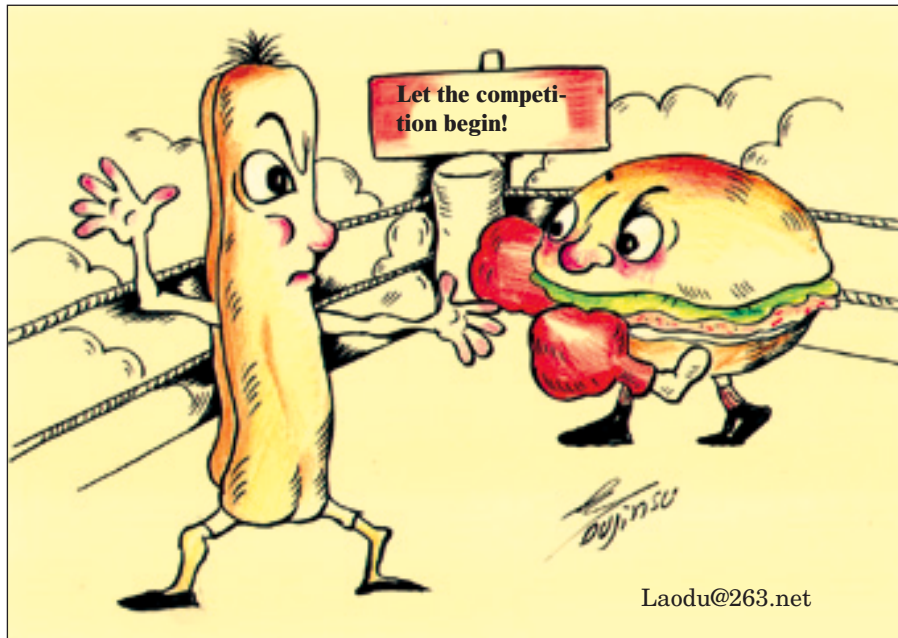
A university student from Shanghai said, "it is true that everything has two sides. In the short term, the entry will bring some problems. In the long run, it is an inevitable choice."

People on high salaries strongly in favor

83% of people with monthly salaries between 5,000 and 8,000 yuan strongly support entry to the WTO, followed by over 65% for people earning between 3,000 and 5,000 yuan.

In contrast, 49% and 46% of people with salaries ranging from 400 to 800 yuan and less than 400 yuan respectively have positive attitudes.

Those in the highest salary bracket usually have a wide exposure to foreign products and services. They tend to be



more aware of the advantages of advanced technology in their daily life and are impressed by advanced management techniques.

Meanwhile they are also aware of the increased opportunities brought by China's increased competitiveness on the world market.

Pessimism still exists

Although 62% of the surveyed consider their life will be much better after entry to the WTO, 29% expect their life to remain unchanged. 9% of the surveyed say they expect to suffer a negative influence brought about by entry to the WTO.

People with less education and on lower incomes tend to be more pessimistic about benefiting from the WTO.

While not denying the general improvements brought by advanced science and technology, globalization and economic reform, they don't see themselves as the main beneficiaries, but rather as living on the edge of the social development.

Domestic electronic products seen as potential world market leaders

Among the list of eight frequently mentioned domestic enterprises, four are considered to be capable of being world market leaders in the electronics sector. Haier with 51% ranks first, Legend with 21% ranking second, Changhong 6% ranking fifth and TCL 5% ranking last in the list.

Such enterprises are well established and enjoy an excellent reputation. Meanwhile they are not satisfied with just a large slice of the domestic market share, but are making great efforts in developing and diversifying products.

Furthermore, with the issuing of their shares on the stock market, they are raising their public profile even higher.

Enterprises eager for more international partners

The survey shows that after entry to the WTO, most domestic enterprise expect to establish and develop close business relationships with more countries and

regions, including Europe (21%), U.S.A. (18%), South East Asia (15%) and Japan (13%), Taiwan and Hong Kong (8%), South Korea (4%) and others (22%).

Enterprises want to become less dependent on the American and Japanese economy and extend their economic and investment relationships.

Consumption priority given to foreign hi-tech products

73% and 70% respectively of those surveyed say they expect to buy foreign mobile phones and cars after entry to the WTO, opposed to 19% and 20% who say they will still choose domestic ones.

Although some domestic mobile phones are similarly priced, many consider the foreign models superior in quality, function and after-sales service.

Furthermore most people believe after entry to WTO, prices for imported cars, luxury ones in particular, will fall significantly, due to tariff reductions.

Financing and tourism face potential challenges

According to the survey, after entry to the WTO, 58% will still use domestic banks compared with 27% who say they will use foreign banks; 50% and 35% respectively for domestic and foreign insurance companies; and 56% and 27% respectively for domestic and foreign tourists companies.

Such foreign enterprises are not able to take priority over the traditional industries. However, they may have a bigger impact as more people become aware of their advantages.

For example, high interest rates, higher returns from foreign banks and insurance companies and convenient and thoughtful services provided by the foreign tourist companies.

Senior staff will be primary purchasers of imported products

According to the survey, senior and middle management staff are more likely

to use foreign banks (42% and 40% respectively), compared with 29% and 26% for ordinary employees and workers.

Also, 63% and 66% of senior and middle management staff are in favor of foreign telecom companies in contrast with 56% and 44% for ordinary employees and workers.

Furthermore, employees in foreign companies are more inclined to choose foreign products and services than their counterparts in domestic enterprises.

Taking insurance as an example, 53% of employees in foreign enterprises say they will insure with foreign companies after WTO entry, compared with 34% of those in state owned enterprises and 26% for collective enterprises.

Domestic enterprises are ready for China's entry

71% of the surveyed enterprises say they are prepared for China's entry to the WTO, including 17% who say they are well prepared.

Among those who say they are prepared, 53% are considering increasing their investments and 45% say they will make greater efforts in seeking opportunities to invest and develop overseas.

Meanwhile, 42% are seeking the opportunity to becoming joint ventures; 26% are adjusting their market targets and 16% are intending to list themselves on the stock market.

Such responses suggest that domestic enterprises are aware that the ability to seize development opportunities relies on the proper allocation of resources and cooperation with partners at home and abroad.

Furthermore, some enterprises are emphasizing adjustment of their target market, a more fundamental aspect of enlarging a company's business scope than simply absorbing investment. With such efforts, domestic enterprises have every right to be confident about successfully competing for a share of the world market.

Short Courses

How to get ahead and keep up with change

By Su Wei

Short courses and training programs are popular ways for people to enhance their employment prospects.

A recent survey by BMS & Associates looks at what kinds of courses are most in demand and what factors influence people to take such courses, especially in relation to China's WTO accession.

The survey was conducted in Beijing among working people and university students who will graduate in the coming year.

Unprecedented demand for training programs

Over 90% of those surveyed consider some sort of 'self-improvement' vital after China's entry to the WTO. 28% say a short course or training program is the best method, followed by formal education (24%) and self-study (13%).

Short courses are seen as being more effective than self-study, and more flexible in terms of schedule and less expensive than formal education.

Foreign languages top choice

35% of the surveyed people say they will take a course to study a foreign language, followed by professional training (21%), management training (14%) and WTO related courses (10%).

The government has emphasized the importance of learning foreign languages, especially English, while many people may see courses to enhance professional and management skills relevant only to management staff.

Relatively few people see WTO regulations, quotas and tariffs as being relevant to them, though they may have a strong interest in how WTO entry will affect prices of goods and services.

Senior staff pay more attention to management training

Among the senior managing staff surveyed, 55% list management training as their first priority, while 33% put foreign language study first. Only 8% say they will take a professional training program.

It seems that senior staff consider that while a good com-

mand of foreign languages is important, it is more important to continually sharpen management skills.

Middle management favor a wide variety of training programs

For middle management, 27% list foreign language study as their first preference, 25% professional training, followed by 19% for management training and 13% for WTO knowledge introduction programs. Meanwhile, 6% say it is necessary for them to take short courses in law.

The results suggest that middle managers see WTO related courses being of less direct benefit to them than foreign language study or professional training.

Foreign languages training top priority for ordinary employees

For the ordinary employees, 45% consider foreign language study as the most important, followed by professional, WTO knowledge, and management training at 16%, 14% and 11% respectively.

For ordinary employees, a management position may be a

long way off for many, and detailed WTO knowledge irrelevant to their current work.

Studying a foreign language may be the most practical and effective way of improving their qualifications, and as such, a better investment.

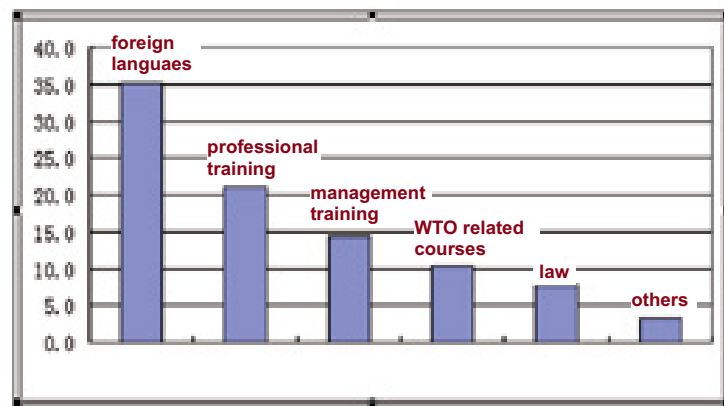
Content of the course most important

57% of those surveyed say the subject of the course or training program is the key factor in their decision whether to enroll or not. 34% say how much spare time they have is the main factor, while less than 10% cited the cost, the instructor, or nature of the certificate given on successful completion of the course.

This suggests that people have a practical attitude towards such courses, and about whether they can benefit from the training. That is, they are concerned with how the training will increase their capabilities.

Short term courses preferred

24% of the surveyed consider one month as the ideal length of time for a course, followed by 18% who said 3 months.



Preferred courses for training programs

Among those already enrolled in courses, 33% are taking courses with a period between one and two months and 18% are taking courses with a period of over 6 months.

Course lasting one to three months might be seen as being sufficiently long to learn something useful, if not actually mastering the subject, while longer courses might result in conflicts with their work.

50% of monthly income a reasonable outlay

41% of the surveyed say they

are prepared to pay no more than 500 yuan for such a course, followed by 35% who say 500 to 1,000 yuan, and 12% up to 2,000 yuan. Only 8% say they will enroll in a course that costs over 2,000 yuan.

The average monthly income for Beijingers is about 1,500 yuan. Although fewer people are prepared to take courses if the fees are seen as too high, the expenditure for many on such programs still accounts for much of their daily consumption, and can amount to half of the monthly income.



Going, going ...



Demolition Disaster

An investigation is underway to determine what went wrong when the controlled demolition of a power plant chimney in Yunnan Province left 1 person dead and 47 injured

By Ivy Zhang

Something went terribly wrong during the demolition of the 120-meter high chimney and 46,000-square-meters of workers' houses of Yunnan Province's Xuanwei Power Plant.

At 12:47 p.m. on October 30, just a few minutes behind schedule, Du Yunhe, the man in charge of the demolition operation gave the go-ahead.

With an earth-shattering blast, the chimney and houses crumbled slowly to the ground, exactly as planned, much to the delight of the crowd of onlookers who had gathered to witness the event. Ten seconds after the initial explosion, the chimney hit the ground, marking the end of the show.

However the tremendous force of the impact of 2,600 tons of falling masonry hurled rocks and debris in all directions, many of which struck people in the audience standing just 200 meters away from the chimney.

90% of the onlookers were not wearing safety helmets

The first hit were those at the makeshift command post, the Yunnan TV live broadcast post, the VIP guests and se-

curity personnel. Hundreds of people had come to witness the event, among whom only 10% had donned safety helmets.

In seconds, a hilarious scene turned to a tragedy. A reporter who just filmed the technician pressing the start button turned to look at the falling chimney, to find himself in a hail of rocks and earth. With nowhere to run, he threw himself to the ground and covered his head with his hands.

A few seconds later, he stood up, recovered his glasses, only to find a colleague from Yunnan TV who had been struck on the head lying unconscious on the ground. Police and other staff nearby rushed her to an ambulance.

Injured people covered in blood were everywhere. Some had been hit on the head, some on their body or limbs.

A total of 47 people sustained injuries of varying degrees, and Yang Anzhi, a 43-year-old former employee of Xuanwei Power Plant lost her life.

Nearby the specially erected viewing stands, the live broadcast vehicle owned by Yunnan TV and other cars were severely damaged by the flying rocks and debris.

Before the detonation, chief engineer says "100% no problem"

On the morning before the demolition, a reporter met with Dr. Du Yunhe, the chief engineer of the operation. Du said that everything was ready, and on being asked whether he was 100% sure that it would be a success, answered with a smile, "No problem."

However, there was strong wind on the site the day before the demolition. According to technical requirements, the wind speed needed to be below 3 meters per second, because the chimney had to fall in the opposite direction to which the wind was blowing.

When concerns were raised about the impact of a high wind on the demolition, Du said that there was no need to worry. The detonation could be triggered electrically within seconds, and the wind would not be a problem.

Accident a result of soft and wet ground, says engineer

After the accident, Du offered an explanation for what had gone wrong. He said continuous rain in the days before the demolition meant the ground was very wet and soft,

and the audience was positioned too close to the detonation area.

In an interview with a reporter from Xinhua.net, Du said the accident was totally unexpected, however "from a technical perspective, all the objectives had been accomplished and the detonation had been basically successful".

Commenting on the detonation technology, Professor Wang Xuguang, a detonation specialist and academician of the China Academy of Engineering says this was the largest such demolition project ever carried out in South West China. As far as ensuring the normal operation of the 300,000-kilowatt power station just 20 meters away, this "directional detonation" was a success.

In the rain of debris that followed the demolition, even Du himself was struck on the leg. "I can't say who's responsible for this accident now," Du said, "I'm very sorry it happened. That's the last thing a technician wants to see."

A team of 30 investigators has been established by the Yunnan provincial government to address the issues of evidence collection, rescue and follow up. The case is still under investigation.

Who's Behind the "West End" Gang?

With the ringleaders of the notorious gang safely behind bars, attention in Guangdong Province's Beihai is focusing on the search for the gang's "protectors"

By Ivy Zhang

According to a Xinhua.net report last week, the standing committee of the Beihai People's Congress has requested the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) to investigate how the West End (Xitou) criminal gang was able to remain at large for seven years. The PSB has been asked to submit a report on the issue so as to "give all the citizens a satisfactory answer".

The West End gang was a notorious criminal gang in Beihai city. During a period of 7 years from Jan. 1993 to Nov. 1999, the gang organized and committed a series of bloody crimes ranging from murder, drug trafficking, robbery and blackmail, to gambling and instigating riots.

It took nearly one year for police to break the back of the gang. After a 17-day public trial, Beihai Intermediate People's Court handed down its initial verdict. Seven defendants, including the two ringleaders, the brothers Li, were sentenced to death.

However, the initial verdict announced that the gang's activities did not constitute "organized crime", because of "the lack of evidence proving that the defendants, by means of bribery or threats, lured or forced government staff to participate in activities of an 'underground society' nature or provide illegal protection to them".

This announcement brought strong responses. In a three-day public poll conducted by the standing committee of Beihai People's Congress, people raised many questions and doubts about the ruling and called on the police to make a thorough investigation.

Countless crimes committed, black economy cultivated

The brothers Li Changyu, 35, and Li Changhai, 31, ran the West End gang. The elder brother was the "brains" and the younger one the "brawn". The gang, which took the west of Beihai city as its major area of activity, were involved in some 44 criminal cases and killed 8 people.

On Jan. 27, 1993, Zhao Zhenfeng, head of the competing East End gang, went to a disco at Furama Hotel Beihai. The Li brothers and other gang members ambushed him outside the disco, holding rifles, home made bombs and knives. In the bloody fight that ensued, Zhao was injured and died on the way to hospital. From then on, as the influence of the East End gang declined, the West End gang became more and more violent in its activities.

From 1994 to 1998, the brothers in partnership with various others set up four gambling houses. In addition to earning big money, they also turned to loan sharking. For those who failed to pay their loans back on time, punishment was cruel.

In April 1994, a businessman in real estate got into debt to Li Changyu for 540,000 yuan at the Jinlixing gambling house. Li ordered his men to threaten and intimidate the businessman and his family on many occasions. One night in June, gang members broke into the businessman's home, and on fail-

ing to find him, ransacked and vandalized the residence. Some months later, the businessman was taken into a nearby woods. After giving him a heavy beating, the gangsters pushed him down into a big tomb and buried him up to his neck. The businessman narrowly escaped with his life, while the gang extorted more than 1.1 million yuan from him.

Sanzhong road is an area with a high density of drug-takers. A key member of the West End gang named Fujun monopolized the drug business there. Gang members also blackmailed owners of beauty salon, entertainment establishments and restaurants, forcing them to pay for "protection".

On Nov. 2, 1999, staff of the Dream City Dance House, run by the Li brothers, had a run in with security personnel of the neighboring Mini Entertainment City. More than 60 gang members, headed by Li Changhai, the younger brother, armed with knives, clubs and rifles swarmed on "Mini City", beating people and smashing things along the way. In just a few minutes, seven security guards, waiters and customers were injured. TV sets, game machines and furniture worth over 100,000 yuan were destroyed.

Case closed? Not yet

Although the West End gang has been tried and sentenced, the case is not over yet. According to sources from Beihai Public Security Bureau, "the foundation which cultivates and spreads the 'evil power' has not yet been eliminated. During the investigation and law enforcement process, we were often confronted with pressure from certain authorities."

During the investigation, a special undercover police team was formed, and every move they made was highly confidential. However, word about their movements often seemed to get out beforehand, which made their tasks much harder to accomplish.

According to the investigating team, the Li brothers had a close relationship with some "big names". Certain government staffs often dined or gambled with them. And some officials, on being promoted, would invite the brothers to banquets. Li Changyu, the elder brother, was known as the "No. 2 Director of the Public Security Bureau". When an arrest warrant was issued for Li Changhai, the younger brother, he was found hiding in a policeman's home.

After the arrest of the Li brothers, calls to intercede poured in to the municipal government and judicial organs, with pleas to have mercy on the West End gangsters. Some of these calls came from high ranking local government officials.

Cracking down criminal gangs is part of the anti-corruption drive. The Beihai Communist Party Committee and Beihai Municipal Government say they are determined to expose and prosecute the gang's "protectors". "Whoever is involved in this case, we'll probe until we uncover them, and we'll spare no one who's guilty," vows Che Jifeng, secretary of the Beihai Communist Party Commission.



An injured spectator is led away from the demolition scene

Photos provided by Beijing Youth Daily



Bringing

Man and Wife Together

By Zhao Pu

“Distinguished guests, the wedding ceremony of the beautiful new couple is complete, but their sweet marriage is just beginning. 25 years later, they will host their silver wedding anniversary here; 50 years later, golden anniversary; and I'll see you 60 years later at their diamond anniversary, when I'm 99 years old!” Laughter and applause overflowed the banquet hall of the wedding ceremony in the New Century Hotel.

Ma Longxiang, a 39-year-old professional wedding compere thus concluded a wedding ceremony in a flourish last Saturday.

“I've been presiding over weddings for more than 10 years, and this is my 536th wedding,” said Ma proudly, wiping away the sweat from his forehead. In a smart, gray suit, and with excitement still streaked across his face, Ma looked younger than his years.

Finding the Career I Was Born for

“I always feel I was born to be a wedding compere, in terms of both interest and talent,” the truth of which is evident in his sparkling, ecstatic eyes. Extravert personality and previous work experience in a local TV station as a compere, on top of a coincidental attendance at a friend's wedding, guided Ma onto the road of becoming a wedding compere.

“I've loved being the focus of people's attention since I was a little kid,” said Ma, “I also love festive occasions.” So when he first came across a wedding compere, he immediately fell in love with this special occupation, finding the perfect match to his passion and talent.

In early 1990, Ma attended the wedding ceremony of a for-

mer classmate serving as a cameraman. At the ceremony, he met a wedding compere for the first time. “The humorous and pleasant compere became the focus of my attention throughout the ceremony, and I had an instinct that I could do better.”

Half a month later, another of Ma's friends got married. He volunteered to preside over the wedding, promising the groom a merry time of a ceremony. As an experienced TV compere, he slipped easily into the role.

“I prepared for 3 days, writing out the formalities word by word, carefully designing the specific process of the ceremony and thinking about every possible occurrence or slip.” The debut performance smoothly proceeded into a stunning success.

“I was basically satisfied with my first ceremony,” smiled Ma, “though with retrospective, it was very immature and inexperienced.” His pages of notes containing every word and possibility have evolved into a red stylish card covered in a few scribbles.

Ma has become an amateur wedding compere since then. People started to come and ask him to preside over their weddings, or those of their relatives and friends. Most of his weekends over the past 10 years have been devoted to hosting weddings. Last year the TV station disbanded, and Ma started a formal career as a wedding compere in Jinyuangu Wedding Company.

“I love my job,” said Ma contentedly, as he reviewed some pictures taken at previous weddings, “every time I step onto the platform in a wedding hall, I feel excited.”

It's a Demanding Job

To become a competent wed-

ding compere, interest is far from enough. “It's a demanding job,” said Ma seriously, “The wedding ceremony is a kind of performance. It has no rehearsal, which is different from all other performances, and at the same time it has to be successful.”

Anything could happen, expected or unexpected. If accidents occur at a wedding, the compere is responsible for sorting out the situation and solving the problem. At one wedding, the large character hanging above the platform, ‘喜 (Xi)’, expressing good luck, suddenly fell down and hit the bride's shoulder. This is extremely ominous for a Chinese wedding, and all the audience was shocked and embarrassed, including the bride and groom.

Ma was also struck by the sudden mishap, but soon recollected his sangfroid and said loudly to the audience, “I've presided over some 500 weddings and I have to say that this lady is the luckiest bride I've ever met, everyone's heard of the adage ‘喜从天降 (luck falls from heaven)’ and we've just seen the proof!” His quick-witted words broke the ice and revived the otherwise disastrous ceremony.

Everyone hopes to be blessed with beautiful weather on their wedding day, but the weather forecast doesn't always foretell the truth. Chinese, especially old people, believe that rain on a wedding day is a bad omen. Last month, Ma presided over a rainy wedding. The groom's parents

were from south China, and were quite superstitious in sticking to the idea that unexpected rain indicates that the bride would bring bad luck to their family. The wedding date was carefully chosen after a study of recent weather forecasts. But it did rain, from early morning of the wedding day.

The faces of the groom's parents were icy, no smiles. “I must say something to cheer them up,” Ma remembered, “They should be smiling on their son's wedding.” He then gleefully addressed the audience, “The true love between the new couple moved not only all of us, but the heavens, who provided a pleasant shower to offer their congratulations. The surprise gift was not shown on the weather forecast, of course.” His words melted the ice on their faces, and they began to smile.

Every Wedding Is Inspiring

For most people, their wedding day is the most special and memorable occasion in their life. It represents an important moment of role transitions, marking a son becoming a husband, or a daughter becoming a wife.

But for a professional wedding compere, who has presided over more than 530 weddings, it may be the most routine work of daily life. Do ceremonies still hold excitement and inspiration for him? “Yes, for sure,” answered Ma convincingly, “I feel so proud to accompany new couples in spending these wonderful occasions.

Every wedding is inspiring and exciting for me, no less than the first one.”

He said that he's frequently moved by people's true love and affection. One wedding last June was one of the most impressive for Ma. The groom was a 25-year-old young man whose father had died when he was a little kid. He grew up raised by his mother, who worked very hard to support him all the way to university. It is routine for the groom and bride to offer a few words to their parents to express their gratitude. The groom prepared a lot to say to his mother, but at that moment, he lost his voice in tears and finally knelt down in front of his mother and kowtowed to her. “I was so touched that I said to the guests, ‘I think the mother has already read the words her son wishes to say to her, and we also understand what the groom wants to express to his mother.’” A thunderous applause erupted following his words.

“Another wedding was unique,” he went on, retrieving another story in his mind, “the bride presented a surprise to the groom, as a perfect token of their love.” One of the parts of the ceremony is the exchange of gifts between the groom and the bride. The groom presented the bride a diamond ring. When it was the bride's turn, she told a story before showing her gift. The two lovers had been classmates in college, and the boy was a pretty good guitar player. Once they saw a beautiful guitar in a music shop, and the girl could tell how much her boyfriend liked it seeing his sparkling eyes. But he said nothing and left the shop, without even a second glance at that guitar. At the time the guitar was way above their means. “I bought that

guitar to present to you today, and I wish for you to play it for me till you are too old to remember the scores.”

Despite presiding over so many successful weddings, Ma hides a sad story of his own. He himself was married for a short time, later divorcing. “When I got married in 1987, we had hardly any celebration or ceremony.” At that time, weddings were simple, mostly a feast at home to entertain family members and friends. He said he never imagined presiding over weddings would become his career.

Who will host his wedding if he remarries someday in the future? “No, I probably won't invite a compere for my own wedding,” revealed Ma when asked about his possible future wedding, “I wish to celebrate my wedding in an unique way, without compere and those routine processes.”

For every wedding he presides over, Ma sincerely hopes the new couple will love and support each other as long as they live. “The wedding is only a ritual, life afterwards is unpredictable, sometimes as good as wished at the wedding, other times more troubled... But the beautiful occasion and pure-hearted promises should remain in the heart forever.”

We are interested in reporting common people, their stories, their feelings. If you have any personal experiences or you know someone who have such experiences, please contact us.

We would like to help you if you have any trouble, we would like to share your happiness if you are cheerful.

Our E-mail Address is:

Portrait @ ynet.com

Our Fax Number is:

(010) 6590 2525



- ① About to introduce the bride and groom
- ② Teaching the waitress how to present the wedding gifts
- ③ Leading the new couple in the vows
- ④ Checking the name cards on the guest table

Photos by Jackey



Often, people around us are neglected; Often, questions in our minds are without answers...



Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

Story Behind 'Long Live' Slogans on Tian'anmen

By Zhong Ling

It is widely known that there are two slogans on each side of Chairman Mao's portrait on Tian'anmen gate tower. But few people know how the two slogans originated. As their writer, I would like to share a brief explanation of their history with readers.

In July 1949, as the director of the Administrative Office for the Preparatory Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), I was in charge of designing the site of the first Plenary Session of the first CPPCC, and decorating Xinhua gate, west and north gate of Zhongnanhai. In late September, the CPPCC decided to establish the central government on October 1 and hold a ceremony on the same day. Along with my colleagues, I was in charge of the design and decoration of Tian'anmen as the

rostrum for the grand ceremony. We had been working day and night since September 24. I was responsible for writing the logo of the first Plenary Session and the two slogans.

Since the design for the national emblem had not been passed at that time, a logo with the 'Ceremony of the Founding of the People's Central Government of the People's Republic of China' was hung instead of the national emblem. On the two sides of Chairman Mao's photo were slogans formulated by Premier

Zhou Enlai, 'Long Live the People's Republic of China' on the left, and 'Long Live the Chinese People's Central Government' on the right.

The left slogan was composed of 9 characters, and the right had 8. I narrowed the space between the characters on the left so as to make the two symmetrical.

Each character was about two meters' square. I remembered the vertical stroke of the character '中' (pronounced zhong) was higher than a man. The characters on the logo were smaller, ap-

proximately one meter square. It was my first time to write characters of such size using the art lettering technique. It took me two whole days to finish them. The slogans adopted the Song typeface for solemnity and poise.

The logo was taken off without hesitation after the founding ceremony, but what about the two slogans? I reported to Premier Zhou. Having looked over the site design map of the ceremony, Premier Zhou made a wise decision: to keep the slogans where they were and change the

'People's Central Government' with 'the Unity of all the People in the World'. By doing so, not only the connotation of the slogan was enlarged from patriotism to internationalism, but also the number of characters became balanced, and the complete symmetry of the two slogans looked more beautiful than before.

By 1959, the tenth anniversary of the founding of the PRC, I had been transferred to work as the deputy general secretary of the Chinese Artists' Association. One day, Yu Xinqing, director

of the Organization Affairs Administrative Bureau of the State Council (also director of the National Ceremony Bureau), told me to change the slogans from their original complex forms into simplified Chinese characters. Ever since then the content of the slogans has remained unchanged for over four decades, although the frames have been maintained and renewed many times since.

That the two slogans could be preserved for so long, be placed in such an important position, and be taken as a good example of calligraphy of the Song typeface, are all far beyond my expectations 50 years ago. As the designer and the writer of the two slogans, every time I pass Tian'anmen, or see them on television, I feel very warm, and of course, proud.

(Translated by Wang Baoling / Miao Yajie)

About the author

Zhong Ling was born in Jinan, Shandong Province, in 1921. He joined the Communist Party in 1938, and was soon sent to study at the Lu Xun Art Academy in Yan'an. After graduation, he devoted himself to edu-

cation. Meanwhile he published many works on woodcuts and caricatures in local newspapers, and designed a stamp of Baota Mountain.

He participated in the design of the CPPCC emblem and the national emblem of China. More-

over, the six characters on China's currency 'People's Bank of China' were also written by him.

Since 1950, he began to cooperate with caricaturist Fang Cheng, and published over a thousand cartoons. His other

publications include poetry, art criticism, plays, and painting albums.

In 1999, Zhong Ling was presented with the award of the 'Artist of the Century in the Field of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy'.

美食 · 娱乐 · 休闲
TEL: 68997124 68311626

ZiyiXuan Baochi Lou 紫怡轩鲍翅楼

3rd Floor Building B,
Donghuan Guangchang,
29 Dongzhong jie,
Dongcheng District
东城区东中街 29 号东环广场 B 幢 3 层
11:00-14:30, 17:00-22:00
6856.9388

Beijing Roast Duck 北京烤鸭店

Building 3, Tuanjie Lake, Chaoyang District
朝阳区团结湖北口 3 号楼
11:40-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6852.4003

Bianyifang Roast Duck Restaurant 便宜坊

2A Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District
崇文区崇文门大街甲 2 号
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
Tel: 6712.0505

Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant

Welcome to our Spice Orchids Thai Restaurant.

Our features are undeniable: Walls decorated in purple and deep wine red; colors that really work together to produce a harmony; food that lie on its contrasts; chefs that create a wonderful medley of hot, cool, sour, sweet, crunchy and soft dishes. Fish cake, deep-fried Taro, Green Pepper & Red Curry Fried with Beef and Minced meat fried with Basil leaves are not to be missed. And, we have an unique Chinese name, Tai Xiang La, which means Spicy Thai Restaurant, verbally; and Very Good Smell, phonetically. You're likely to satisfy your taste buds for a mere of RMB18 up, with weekday set lunch from RMB25-50. Tasty and inexpensive. A very good casual dining experience. Add: 8 South Street, Guan Dong Dian, Chaoyang District. (North of Kerry Centre Hotel and the back of Hot-Point Disco) Tel: 6591.7726 Fax: 6591.7926

CLUB GREEN

BEST CLUB IN BEIJING

ADD: Land mark Tower 1/F 8 North Dong San
Huan Road. chaoyang District Beijing

地址: 北京市朝阳区东三环北路 8 号亮马河
大厦一层

TEL: (010) 65906999 65906688 - 2988

COME & BE AS COOL AS --
GREEN



New French Restaurant Now Open!

来过罗兰·加洛斯吗? 不知你有没有来过罗兰·加洛斯, 有没有尝过这里鲜嫩的蜗牛, 有没有就着奶酪品味波尔多的葡萄酒, 有没有燃着古巴雪茄欣赏网球公开赛? 侍者是彬彬有礼的, 还能把每款酒, 每种烟的来由娓娓道出。氛围是典雅的, 还有温暖浪漫的烛光。这里还有独具特色的网球文化主题服务: 专门从海外订购的网球历史文化资料, 精彩纷呈的网球主题活动和球友内部通讯, 主题网站与“一网打尽”网球网络联盟。Spoil yourself with genuine French fare and ambiance and a superb variety of wines at the Roland Garros restaurant. Close a full evening of relaxation with a choice of dramatic desserts, coffees, and Cuban cigars.

ROLAND GARROS
RESTAURANT & BAR, BEIJING, CHINA
罗兰·加洛斯 餐厅

罗兰·加洛斯网球主题法式餐厅
Roland Garros Restaurant
Open: 11:00-24:00 Daily
地址: 朝阳区农展南路朝阳网球俱乐部北门一层
Address: North Entrance Chaoyang Tennis Club
Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang District
Telephone: 6508-9100

北京好世界阳光酒店 BEIJING FANTASY WORLD CLUB

It offers a full range of services, including fine rooms, restaurants and entertainment centre.

FU LIN Seafood Restaurant: more than 100 kinds of fresh seafood are now 20% off.

Korean Flavour Restaurant: newly open, supply Korean food and barbecue. 20% off.

Entertainment Centre: Bowling, billiards, karaoke and gymnasium.

Tel: (010) 68843388-718/620

Add: 1 Gu Cheng Nan Lu Shijingshan District

(100 meters in west from Gu Cheng metro station)

电话: (010) 68843388-718/620 (详见店内海报)

地址: 石景山区古城南路 1 号 (地铁古城站西 100 米)

Donglaishun Restaurant

东来顺

5/F, Xindong'an Plaza, Wangfujing
Da jie, Dongcheng District
东城区王府井大街 新东南商场 5 层
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6528.0932

Fan Shi Gang

饭是钢

140 Andingdajie, Dongcheng District
东城区安定大街 140 号
9:00-23:00
64042187

北京之夜酒楼 Night of Beijing Restaurant

Special offer of seafood as well as many other dishes and salads: shrimp: RMB38; lobster / clam: RMB98

Pleasant ambience and sufficient parking space.

Address: 1 Dayabao Alley, Dongcheng District

Tel: 65272672, 65272704 ext 8865

粤菜 中华餐 商务套餐

特价海鲜 基围虾 38 元 龙虾/象拔蚌 98 元

数十款 10 元菜及特价菜: 多款夏日清爽沙拉。

本酒楼内设多间文化厅房, 环境优雅, 备有充足车位。

地址: 东城区大雅宝胡同 1 号 电话: 65272672 65272704 转 8865

An Di and Wang Xiaorui, the main characters in *High-Heeled Shoes*, are two young pretty Shanghai girls. Wang Xiaorui totally gives in to material power while An Di tries to take advantage of material power to reach a higher spiritual level.

Their material desires drive them to Ten Treasures Street, an imaginary street representing the material world of the late 1980s. Ten years pass and they become materially rich, realizing their former dreams. Both girls however end up encountering more pain, involving loss and loneliness.

(Editor)



Picture by Fu Bingyu

By Shi Xinyu

Zhu Wenying, the young lady in her early 30s, presented an all-out best-seller to the Spring Breeze Literature Publishing House in August 2001. The first 20,000 copies sold out within 3 days during September's National Book Festival in Kunming. Panic buying then engulfed the following 30,000 reprints.

"Finally there was no book left in our office, so I had to buy myself a book at a bookstore," said Zhu Honghai, editor of *High-Heeled Shoes*, "From half-a-month ago, pirated versions started to appear."

Refraining from explicit descriptions of sex or extreme views on life, this realistic novel written from an objective feminine visual angle

has still won great acclaim. In the novel, *High-Heeled Shoes* is a metaphor representing the allure and cruelty of material power. Possessing it, people satisfy their vanities, and step up to a higher social class, but the accompanying pain, bleeding and torture are nevertheless inevitable.

Zhu Wenying's novel focuses on many people's

dilemma during China's period of commercialization from the late 1980s to late 1990s of the choice between material power and spiritual power. Zhu gives *High-Heeled Shoes* an open ending, making no judgments on what is right and wrong; she presents a more profound debate on how to make a choice between reality and the spirit.



Photo by Zhang Jizhou

High-Heeled Shoes

Break the Ice of Desire

Many Things Not Bad at First Sight

People are absolutely wrong to take high-heeled shoes as things belonging to well-fixed classes. Before we put this mistaken idea right, we need to bear in mind that "most women are material animals" first. All the fancy airs women put on come from the earthiest ground they live in. They are cunning enough to know how to disguise themselves and are born knowing how to behave in this practical world. Thus they manage to obtain food saving their skin and making profit at the smallest cost to themselves.

But sometimes they still feel pangs of pain from a more powerful material world, a place run under firm rules and punchy force. There, the women who thought they were well disguised are bruised black and blue. This is when high-heeled shoes, and other feminine accessories, begin to present themselves: to resist materials with materials and dress up the toughest heart in sugar.

That Street filled with Eyes and Mouths

Wang Xiaorui said: "So you think money is important, ha?"

"Don't you also believe in that?" An Di answered back.

Then Wang Xiaorui said nothing.

Actually there is one thing both of the young girls did not speak out: they both love money. During their childhood in the 1970s, goods were restricted in a way that refused to allow any feeling of affluence. Furthermore they have not been imbued by the firmness and toughness of rough times, as their parents were. So their characters easily sway: they would be steel if they stood by steel, they would be irons if they were put beside iron, and they would even be money if they were faced with gold. They are easily lured, and their futures depend on luck.

And now they have encountered Ten Treasures Street.

Everyday when dusk falls, schoolgirls appear in the stores on Ten Treasures

Street: they could be salesgirls, jewelry appraisers, interpreters or pretty escorts. But as time goes by, people begin to call them hookers.

A piece of Jade

An Di is sensitive enough: she deeply understands the present age. This smart girl will be a lady of action.

Her aim is clear: to be rich, strong and powerful.

The realistic An Di went to Ten Treasures Street, with a jade pendant from her grandma. Looking at girls on the street, she thought she was different.

Beginning of a Realist

Wang Xiaorui went to Treasures Street too. Same as An Di, she also believed she was different on the street. Wan Xiaorui had no jade, she just equipped herself in some external ways. In fact, to Wang Xiaorui, the street means nothing complex, nor has any deep connection with history: it's just a magic street filled with all kinds of possibilities. And the reason she took herself for a unique girl is quite simple: she is younger, prettier and possesses more actual capital than any other girl on the street.

What Is Acceptable and What Is Not

It all comes down to the old saying of just two words: material and spirit. Having accepted Wang Jianjun's descriptions of the blue sky and red fruit, An Di now believes spiritual elements exist in all material things that man owns. This belief is similar to her idea about the differences between the pale-colored jade from grandma and the red high-heeled shoes worn by Wang Xiaorui; between her appearance on the street and the appearance of others on the street; and between things with a spiritual character, and plain material things. Then we come to the conclusion: a gift containing spiritual features from Wang Jianjun is acceptable, should be accepted, and is a delight to accept.

Those Businessmen

Lao Wei is Wang Jianjun's friend in business, but he would only like to de-

fine this kind of relationship as business partners. Maybe they could be called friends under certain circumstances, for example when they are drunk.

In Wang Jianjun's mind, people would be powerful if they were evil enough. That's the reason he thought Lao Wei was stronger than he was.

A Person May Change into Another over Night

An Di feels life is perfect when drinking wine. The taste of drinking makes all senses blur. So after some wines, An Di had the courage to say and do something. Snaking across the exquisite little round table, her hand seized Wang Jianjun's hand. She opened her mouth and said what she wanted the man to know. Wang Jianjun stayed silent with his head lowered. So she opened her mouth again and repeated herself once more.

Tender music lingered in the roomy hall, together with some tiny people and their weensy but twinkling wishes, just like An Di's. She felt satisfied and happy. Her hand, her body and her heart were all encircled by a huge sense of felicity. She was in a material world and accompanied by a man she loved.

When An Di woke up after getting tipsy, she found herself in a strange room, lying in bed with her clothes on. There was still a hand in her hand, but the hand's owner had changed. It was Lao Wei's hand.

The Meeting of Two Long Lost Citizens

An Di did not know where Wang Xiaorui was nor what was she doing.

They have been lost for a fairly long period. An Di used to hear many rumors about Wang Xiaorui, but she could not be sure about anything. Sometimes An Di thought, even if all the rumors were true, she also could understand. Wang Xiaorui is her good friend, and they used to have much in common: the desire for pretty things, the rebellious against the invariable life, and the pursuit of money. They were all tempted by the times and stepped onto Ten Treasures Street.

But An Di still remembered there were some differences between Wang Xiaorui and her; some huge differences.

If we say Wang Xiaorui is simple, then An Di should be complex. If we say Wang Xiaorui just wants things others have had, then An Di's desire is far beyond that. To Wang Xiaorui, material things are her final end, while to An Di these are just a process or a ladder leading to some higher place that she herself could not figure out clearly now.

Only I know your Loneliness

"Do you still believe in love, believe something called love really exists in the world?" David asked in a slow, low voice.

An Di's heart suddenly beat like crazy. "Yes, I do," She did her best to make her voice sound composed. In fact, at this moment what she wanted to say was: love exists only if you, David, believe in it. And your belief is the root of my belief.

But David does not believe that; he said, "You're wrong, there is no love in the world, even no hatred."

Home of the Mermaid

Wang Xiaorui often serves herself a cup of red wine, drinking while enjoying the view outside her apartment. Sometimes she unwittingly gets drunk then endless emptiness always overwhelms her heart immediately. She does not know from where and how the emptiness comes, but it is really there. Such a feeling never disturbed her before, when she was penniless, wearing those cheap red high-heels, or when she was rich enough to afford clothes of luxury brands, or even when she stepped alone into the streets, wandering aimlessly. At that time, she had hope in her heart, and could see the giant palm of reality waving to call her. But now, emptiness has broken into her heart and besieged her whole life.

A realist is sensitive. Wang Xiaorui knew she had gained all she could own. Everything else is far beyond her capacity.

(Extracts from *High-Heeled Shoes*)



美奥劳务服务有限公司
MEI AO LABOR SERVICE CO., LTD

美奥保洁

营造现代人的清新生活空间

愿我们诚实守信精益求精的“美奥人”为您营造出清新美好的生活空间。装备精良的专业进口设备，高水平、规范化的优质服务队伍

家居保洁

家庭开荒：新居入住前的清理、除垢、灭菌、清洗及去污。

家庭定期、不定期除尘除垢、去污、清斑迹，厨房、卫生间及各种地面的养护、打蜡、翻新。

商业保洁

面向机关、饭店、写字楼、商厦、医疗机构、社区、超市等大型物业，提供长期、定期的保洁

清洗服务。

地毯清洗

各种地毯的清洗去斑及养护

Wish we were honest and faithful. Meiao man seeking for greater perfection gives you delightfully fresh living space.

Professional import facilities with excellent kit, high quality service staffs with high level and standardization.

House keeping:

Cleaning defecating sterilizing for new residence.

Floor maintaining, face-lifting polishing in kitchen and toilet.

Commercial preserves:

Serrice for offices, hotels, business buildings, hospitals communities, super markets, etc.

Carpet cleaning:

Cleaning and mainteance for all kinds of carpet.





Xiang-sheng is a traditional Chinese folk art in the form of a talk show between two or more men, aiming at making people laugh. More important-

Written in 1974, 'Force of Habit' revolves around a ringmaster who visualizes himself as a musical maestro rehearsing Schubert's string quintet 'Trout' together with a motley assortment of circus artists. As a touching comedy, 'Force of Habit' traces the attempts of the quintet to perform the piece flawlessly, which for the circus ringmaster is the only way to break through his daily misery. Rehearsal for the artists is a process of resistance against the ringmaster's pressure to succeed. In this play Bernhard built "the poetic beauty of violence and loneliness," said Cao Kefei.



The second one in the series is 'Look Who's Cross-talking Tonight' staged in 1989. It was staged in large theatres giving 72 performances, including international dates in Singa-

‘Now Millennium Teahouse’ is coming to Beijing. Its precise content still remains a mystery. Although Lai is especially praised for spurring a revival to *Xiang-sheng* in Taiwan, he does not intend to revive the popularity of the art form. “So many things are ignored and forgotten quietly while we’re creating an economic legend today,” he said, “*Xiang-sheng* doesn’t belong to our time, but during its performance, a long line is extended to the essence of our national culture. I try to catch the grandness and wisdom of our culture through this line.”



The movie was made in 1999 and directed by Huo Jianqi, director of 'A Love of Blues'. Although it received awards at two of China's biggest film festivals that year, no businessman thought it worthy of investment. Like most Chinese domestic films, it was abandoned to TV Movie Channel as soon as it was born. However, it evoked a totally different reaction in Japan. When it premiered at Kansai Cultural Center in Japan on May 19 this year, box office sales numbered 1003, breaking all records.

The few people who have seen the movie in China give it the thumbs up. The story itself is moving, let alone the beautiful scenery. Early morning in a remote village of Southern China, a father gives his son the responsibility of delivering the mail in the mountains, having performed this duty himself for decades.

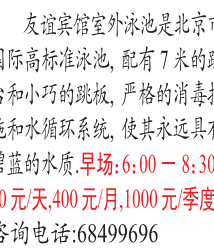
Chen Gang, a sales manager in the audience last Thursday was especially impressed by the relationship between the father and the son. "I think no one can deny the impact from the father's deep feeling, although he doesn't talk much." Since the father is always away at work, he seldom finds many words to say to his son. On the long and hard trip of delivering the mail, the first time for the young and last time for the old, father and son gradually become intimate.

The low box record is partly due to the unprofessional management system in China, to be sure, but it's also a cultural phenomenon. Chinese movies like Zhang Yimou's 'My Mother and Father' always attract a large number of viewers. If a director is famous, his movie is welcomed by the market. Some young directors are equally talented, but they have to wait a long time before being recognized.

“Not many people like idealistic movies,” said Xu Wen, who works on the Avant-garde Film Project. The movie doesn’t suit most young people’s tastes. But in Beijing, it’s rare to see middle-aged people in cinemas. They simply don’t have the habit of going to the cinema.

'Postman in the Mountains' shares the international predicament of art films failing to attract viewers. For the son in the film, the mail route seems never-ending. Art films in China also have a long way to go. 'Postman in the Mountains' is being shown on next Wednesday at Xin Dong'an Cinema. It's still facing the scrutiny of moviegoers.

Great Wall,Ancient Mountain,Cleat Spring,Flying Waterfall.
Join us to the Xiangshuihu Great Wall,you will see all the above scenery.
Xiangshuihu locates at the west part of Mutianyu Huairou. Besides the
lots interesting place,it also has a folurish orchard with apple,date, pear,
walnut,chestnut,grape,edible wild herbs.
From August 25 to October,Xiangshuihu will have a special activity
"Visit Great Wall,pick Up Fruits".
Call now: 010-61631085 61632539 61631588
Take bus: No.916at DongZhimen
Web site: www.Xiangshuihu.com



The club provides the sports fans with professional service besides fun and coolness in the hot summer. Adopting sophisticated foreign training textbooks and equipment, the club provides professional training such as the **swimming and diving courses and organizes diving tours home and abroad**. With the internationally accepted training method, it takes the trainee only 20 hours to get the CMAS diving certificate which is acknowledged all over the world. The trainees have free and flexible choice as to the training time. The swimming course consists of elementary level, improving level, advanced level, honored guest class and the class paid by the hour. **Swimming and diving summer camp**. [Sign up now!](#)

Timing for opening of the courses: the first of April. The courses can begin the training on signing up at any time. The summer courses begin on 1 June. Course time: 9:00 -20:00, 7 days a week. Time for signing up: 9:00 -21:00, 7 days a week. Place for signing up: The Professional Club of the Friendship Hotel (No. 3, Baishuiqiao Road, Haidian District, 200 meters south of Renmin University).

Tel: 68713790 68713791 68498613 Fax: 68713790

Take buses no. 321 or 204 and get off at Yuntong buses No. 104, 105, 205, 106 and get off at Shuang'an Shangcheng stop. Or take bus no. 810 or Te 6 and get off at Renming Daxue stop.

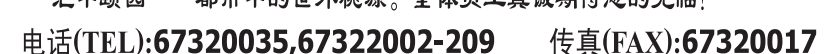




Photo by Chen Shuyi

Breathing Life into Wind Instruments

By Priscilla

Traditionally crafted wind instruments have a long history in China. The renowned Wu family, which has been engaged in this field for some 100 years, representing three generations, enjoys a high reputation in instrument making both at home and abroad.

Wind instruments such as the xiao, a vertical bamboo flute; sheng, a reed pipe; xun, an ancient egg-shaped holed wind instrument, and various other pipes and flutes play an important role in Chinese musical history.

Hong Yin Zhai is the office of the Wu Family Wind Instruments factory, run by Wu Jingxin, the daughter of Wu Zhongfu, the founder of Wu Family Wind Instruments. Many instruments used in China's top orchestras are branded with the Wu name. Feng Xiaoquan and Zeng Gege, a well known duo who play and sing folk songs, always order their instruments from the Wu Family.

Wu Jingxin says every kind of Chinese folk wind instrument can be made at the factory. High quality and tone color is guaranteed, and the instruments can be used in public immediately, without any 'breaking in' period. Her father and her have also made great improvements on many of the old styles of instruments. For instance, they make a flute in two parts, connected by a copper ring, making it possible to adjust and control the pitch.

Wu Jingxin visits the factory in Changping County several times a week to examine the instruments in order to ensure the quality. The materials used include mahogany, ebony, red sandalwood and cypress. Prices range according to the type of wood used and the instrument.

Add: Room 201, Gate 2, Building 10, Area 3, Anzhenli (安贞里), Chaoyang District **Open:** daily **Tel:** 66419134, 68425688, 64429850 **Fax:** 66419134.

What's your favorite shop, stand, bar or restaurant? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902524 or 13910916642. Email: shopping@ynet.com.

Beijing's Little Tibet

By Lydia

Area C in Panjiayuan mainly specializes in Buddhist relics, costumes and ethnic minority apparel. Among them are two rows of about 40 stalls selling Tibetan Buddhist relics. The sellers are from Tibet, Qinghai and Gansu provinces. Some of them collect Tibetan Buddhism relics from local Tibetan people and some are actually monks from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

The main products include mandalas, carpets, wooden cabinets and silverware. Mandalas are a special kind of Tibetan painting of the wheel of life, a representation of the Buddhist teachings about suffering and the impermanence of the cyclic existence. They are used to drive out evil spirits, and for meditation. They usually range in price from 80 to several hundred yuan, but you have to bargain hard to get a reasonable price.

Apart from mandalas, Tibetan silverware are the most popular items on sale. An Australian visitor



Photo by Lou Ge

Panjiayuan



Flea Market

was quite dazzled by the endless array of silver necklaces, bracelets, bowls, swords and belts, "They are so beautiful with the blue and red stone inlay. I don't know much about Tibetan Buddhism but I love these little things so much!" She exclaimed. Another overseas visitor examined a skull-like

container with a silver frame inlay. "It is used to hold water by Tibetans," explained the seller.

Tibetan relics are much cheaper here than other places because of the comparatively lower leasing fee for stalls at Panjiayuan. So why not come here yourself and bring home a little of the mystery of Tibet. Many surprises await you!

Add: east side of area C, Panjiayuan Flea Market.
Open: Sat & Sun. 8am-5pm

GIFTS AND CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

By Priscilla

A recently opened gift shop in Laitai Flower Street specializes in exquisitely made, eye catching wooden decorations.

There are three types of products available; things for children, for daily life and for

Christmas, and all are imported from America, Germany and Japan. The patterns are all hand-made painted and popular and new.

For children, there are toy-boxes, and miniature tables and stools. They also have

small dressing tables, mirrors with beautifully painted wooden frames, tissue box covers flowerpot hangers and welcome signs.

As for the Christmas decorations, little walnut snowmen and Santa Claus smile down at the customers from a high shelf. The owner, Huang Ruolin says in the next few weeks, more Christmas decorations and gifts will be available. Prices range from ten to several hundred yuan.

Add: 33, Laitai Flower Street (莱太花卉), Maizidian Xijie (麦子店西街), Chaoyang District, near Ladies' Street
Open: 9am-8pm.
Tel: 13801324326

Photo by Chen Shuyi



Business Service 商务服务



PRE-MEDIA

北京旁美广告有限公司独家代理“商务服务”专版广告。我们的宗旨是为国内的商务服务及代理机构能够和外商公平、合理地开展合作，从中起到桥梁和纽带的作用。

BEIJING PRE-MEDIA Advertising Co., Ltd. is the exclusive advertising agency of the Business Service page of *Beijing Today*. We will play the bridge on the cooperation between business service company of our country and foreign business.

AD PLACE (广告内容)

◆ 涉外代理工商注册、税务服务、商标、专利等代理注册事宜
Business surrogate relate to foreigner, enterprise registration, tax service, trademark, patent and copyright registration, etc.

◆ 商务培训、合作
Business training and cooperation

◆ 国际交通运输
International transport

◆ 技术、文化交流
Technique and culture communication

◆ 国际招商、投资、融资
International investigation and financing

◆ 商务咨询、顾问、公关、代理
commercial consultation, public relationship and surrogate

◆ 商务办公会议、商务旅游

Business meeting, office and business tour

◆ 商务办公设备
Office equipment

广告刊登电话 AD.PLACE.TEL: (86) 010-88552079/80 13601226884

AD.E-mail: premedia@263.net

BUSINESS AGENT



北京市商标事务所
BEIJING TRADEMARK AGENCY

TEL: 68083066 68081369
FAX: 68081370
地址: 北京市西城区月坛北街2号
月坛大厦6层
16th Floor Yue tan Tower
No.2 Yue Tan North Street
Xicheng District Beijing

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A Five-year-old Advertising company

Possess of certain marketing resource, plan to invest exhibition, design & produce. Now looking for foreign capital to joint venture and cooperation.

Aim

◆ Introducing advantage experiences and technologies from design and produce of overseas exhibitions.

◆ Introducing trademark, administration and marketing promotion from overseas exhibitions vocation.

◆ Introducing certain quantity capital to enlarge scale.
Welcome to connect to us.

Tel: 13701378266

Huiyuan Apartments

ready to rent

With high, medium and economy standard.

Broadband multi-media e-commerce net service in each flat.

Welcome your visit.

Tel: 64923528/64923529
64992660/64910545



CONSULTING
Let us help you to extend your visa or change visa status
Tel: 65674187
Mobile: 13001039008 13910101133
(San Ze synthesize Trading)
三泽综合商社

北京工商事务咨询服务中心

BEIJING CONSULTING SERVICE CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS

业务范围: 承办国内外企业登记注册代理业务、外国企业常驻代表机构审批, 登记注册的代理业务。

The center handles applications for enterprise and foreign enterprise permanent office in Beijing registration.

地址: 北京市海淀区三里河1号西苑饭店7号楼107-109室
RM107-109, NO.7, XIYUAN HOTEL, NO.1 SANLIHELU, HUIDIAN, BEIJING.
电话: 68313388 转 57107-57109 88371521 传真: 68342761 联系人: 周研、孙霞、任民



BeiJing PRE-MEDIA Advertising Company

A well-known professional company

We provide following services:

★ Market strategy, promotion and design, Boutique agency
★ Advertisement Management of plane Media, TV advertisement
★ Buying Representative

Quality service obtain honour welcome to consultation

TEL: 88552081

FAX: 88552079

MOBILE: 13601226884

E-mail: pieere@sina.com

Konica 高品质 数字化复印机 Konica 7045

KONICA 7045
DIGITAL INPUT/OUTPUT STATION

主要性能:
* 复印/打印速度: 45 张/分
* 600×600dpi 输入和输出
* 图形用户界面
* 首张复印输出时间: 3.9 秒
* 预热时间: 少于 90 秒
* 32MB 标准存储器 E-RDH

KEY FEATURES:

> 45 cpm/ppm
> 600×600 dpi for Input & Output
> Graphic User Interface
> FCOT: 3.9 Seconds
> WUT: Less than 90 Seconds
> 32MB Standard Memory E-RDH

BEIJING ZHONGQING KONICA PRODUCTS AGENT CO., LTD

Tel: 63465432 63464797 MP: 13901151799 维修热线: 63448206 Post: 100054
Add: Room 3A407, Pengrun Jiayuan (鹏润家园), Caohuying Cloverleaf Junction, Fengtai District, Beijing, China

Best Bites

Dinner for Two

By Lydia

This is a restaurant just for the two of you. Perhaps you want to give him or her a big surprise? Nobody will disturb you here!

Just for You Two must be Beijing's smallest restaurant. It has only one dinner table, and serves French cuisine. Wine-colored walls, cream sofa, dim lights and soft music... so romantic, so French!

The tiny restaurant has become extremely popular since it opened two months ago. Because there is only one table, you have to book well in advance. You can design the ambience for your special dinner yourself, by choosing tablecloth, candlesticks and background music. The waiters are all very professional and attentive, and will cater to every whim of yours; at your signal they will bring the flowers, start the violin music, even put on your favorite movie.

Just for You Two also provides a special free 'filial piety service', that is if you want to treat your parents for dinner, they will pick them up and see them home afterwards, if you are too busy!

Price reference: traditional baked snails - 65 yuan, goose liver pate - 60 yuan, set menu 180-280 yuan (15% service charge). There is a 35 % discount for students.

Add: 49 Xisidongdajie, Xicheng District, bus 101, 103, 850 or 814 to Xisi, 50 meters east of Shengli Cinema (胜利电影院), north side of the street.

Open: afternoon tea 2-5pm; lunch 11:30am-2pm; dinner 5:30-8pm and 8-10:30pm; bar & movie 10:30pm-2am English menu available

Tel: 66174200. Bookings essential

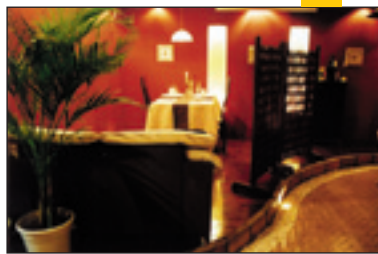


Photo by Jia Ting

Defaulting on a loan: What happens to the down payment?

By Wang Dandan

James bought a house with a bank loan. However a year later, he was unable to keep up with the repayments because of business problems. The bank then took back the house and sold it at an auction. But the developer did not return the 20% down payment James initially made.

The problem

When James bought the house, he made a 20% down payment to the developers and his bank loan was under the assurance of the developer, to be paid off over 20 years. When he failed to make repayments for three months, during which time the developer paid the bank, the developer asked him to leave the house.

When James refused to move out, the developer cut off the water and electricity supply, forcing him to leave. James then asked the developer to return the down payment but the developer refused.

What the government says:

Currently, there are no regulations governing the return of a down payment in the event that a purchaser fails to keep up with loan repayments, says Chen Tongshun, director of the Market Department of the Beijing Real Estate Center.

What the developer says:

According to the developer, it is he who guaranteed James' loans, so when James failed to pay the loan, the developer had to pay it for him, including the interest, and the developer will not cover such loss. All such losses should be covered by the purchaser's 20% down payment.

Another developer, who preferred to remain anonymous, told Beijing Today that it is quite common in cases where purchasers default on their bank loans, to forfeit the down payment.

This is not simply profit seeking on the part of the developers. When a purchaser can no

longer pay off a loan, the developer must undertake it. So if the down payment is returned to the purchasers, he must take the money from his own pocket to cover the loss. So it is unreasonable to refund the money.

But there is also a developer who has recently published a policy which states that purchasers have a 20 day period after moving in to a new house during which they may reject the house and get all their money back, plus 10% interest.

What the lawyer says:

If the house sold at the auction reaches a higher price than it originally sold for, then the extra money has to be allocated by the court, says Xu Chendi, lawyer at Beijing Zhongsheng Law Co. For example, a house worth 500,000 yuan, on which a down payment of 100,000 yuan had previously been made, was subsequently sold at auction for 450,000 yuan. The bank suffered no loss at all but

came out 50,000 yuan ahead. In this instance, the court should allocate the 50,000 between the bank and the original buyer.

It is a good idea to sign an additional contract when purchasing the house covering such details, said Xu. However, there are no specific regulations for such cases.

What the bank says:

According to a spokesperson from the bank, the down payment has nothing to do with the banks at all. It is paid to the developer, not the bank. If the purchaser is unable to keep up with loan repayments, the bank has every right to seize the house and resell it at auction.

If the banks make enough from the auction to cover the remainder of the loan and interest, it would return to the purchaser the money he had already paid, however if it cannot cover the loans and interest, the bank would require the purchaser to pay the difference.

Conclusion

From the above, several points can be concluded:

As for the return of the down payment, you must negotiate with the developers, and it is recommended that you draw up an additional contract covering such details.

It is also suggested that this contract specifies that the down payment be regarded as rent in the event that the purchaser fails to pay off the loan.

As for the bank loans, you have to negotiate with the bank. If the price of the house sold at the auction is higher than the loans, for the extra part, you have to negotiate in the court how to allocate the difference. However, if the price is lower than the loan amount, you have to pay the rest to the bank.

But as there are no laws governing such cases, you need to be very careful when buying a house with a bank loan.



Check the mortgage register before you buy

By Wang Dandan/Yan Ming

Kate purchased a villa a year ago in Shunyi District. It is a foreigner-approved project and she has lived there for nearly a year. One day, however, bank staff visited her house and told her that the house no longer belongs to her, but to the bank!

Kate showed her property right certificate, to no avail. The developer had mortgaged the villas before selling them, a detail he neglected to mention to any of the purchasers. Unable to pay the loan repayments, ownership of the villas

reverted to the bank.

Kate is understandably shocked and cannot understand how this could happen. In fact, all housing mortgages are registered at the Real Estate Bureau, and when she bought the house, she should have checked there to see if her house had been mortgaged. But she did not.

Kate sued the developer and won the case. The court ordered the developer to pay back all the money. But it may well be a long time before he has enough money to do so.



Office prices

China Life Tower:

Rent: US\$45/month/sqm(net)

Location: Chaoyangmenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District. It is only 100 meters away from Chaoyangmen subway station.

China Resources Building:

Rent: US\$36.8-38.8/month/sqm

Location: Jianguomen North Avenue, Dongcheng District.

CITIC Building:

Rent: US\$36/month/sqm(net)

Location: Jianguomenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District. Located in east part of Chang'an Avenue, with International Club on its west across the street, and the Embassy District on its south.

COFCO Plaza:

Rent: US\$42/month/sqm(net)

Location: Jianguomennei Avenue, Dongcheng District. Located in Jianguomennei Ave., facing Chang'an Street and close to Jianguomen and Beijing Railway Station and subway station.

Continental Building:

Rent: US\$19/month/sqm

Location: Gulouwai Street, Dongcheng District. Located between North Second Ring Road and North Third Ring Road.

Eagle Run Plaza:

Rent: US\$22-25/month/sqm

Location: Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District. It is across the street from the Third Embassy District and close to Lufthansa Center and 10 minutes walk to bus station at Third Ring Road.

First Shanghai Center:

Rent: US\$26/month/sqm

Location: Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District.

Grand Place:

Rent: US\$26.5/month/sqm

Location: Anli Road, Chaoyang District. In Asian Game Village.

Hyundai Millennium Tower:

Rent: US\$28/month/sqm

Location: Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District. Being close to the Lufthansa Center and Landmark towers and within the Central Business District and near to the third Embassy areas.

Jing An Center:

Rent: US\$23-26/month/sqm

Location: Zuoqiazhuang, Chaoyang District. It is close to Beijing International Exhibition Center, Royal Hotel and Carrefour Supermarket and also near the Third Ring Road and only 20 minutes drive away from Beijing International Airport.

Lufthansa Center:

Rent: US\$52/month/sqm(net)

Location: Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District. Close to east Third Ring Road.

Pacific Century Place:

Rent: US\$35/month/sqm

Location: Gongtibi Road, Chaoyang District. Close to East Third Ring. Twenty minutes drive to the airport.

Raycom Infotech Park Tower A:

Rent: US\$25-30/month/sqm (excluding management fee)

Location: Zhongkeyuannan Road, Haidian District.

Silver Tower:

Rent: US\$35/month/sqm

Location: Northeast Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District. Close to Hilton Hotel, located conveniently near the 3rd ring road and airport express way.

The Exchange Beijing:

Rent: US\$29.5/month/sqm

Location: Dongsanhuanan Road, Chaoyang District. Located at the intersection of Jianguomenwai Avenue and East Third Ring Road Expressway. Located right above the Guomao Subway Station.

Towercrest Plaza:

Rent: US\$20-22/month/sqm

Location: Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District. The Beijing International Airport remains a ten minutes' drive.

The above information is weekly updated and for reference only DTZ Debenham Tie Leung provides the above information. For further information, please go to www.dtz.com www.dtz.bj.cn **Email:** residential@dtz.bj.cn

Q By Wang Dandan
When you buy a new house, you have to pay property charges, is it legal for developers to demand they be paid several years in advance?
Dear editor:

I bought a house early this year and was informed that the house is completed. When I was going through all the procedures of checking, I came across a prob-

lem that the developer asked me to pay property management charges for the next three 3 years. I am wondering if it is legal or not.
Dear reader:

It is legal to pay such charges by month, season or by a year, but developers are not allowed to require payment for more than a one year period. You do not have to pay that much. If there is still a disagreement, then turn to the law for help.

By Hydrie

As all these are easy to find, located near the Third and Fourth Ring Roads. They also have ample parking available.

Dazhongsi Furniture Shopping Center

Over 300 varieties of products including furniture, decorations and building materials.

Open: 8:00am-9:00pm

Tel: 62550840

Beijing Sanxing Furniture Center

Free delivery within Third Ring Road.

Open: 8:00am-18:00pm

Tel: 63440360

Beijing Muxiyuan Furniture Department Store

Free delivery within Third Ring Road.

Open: 8:00am-6:00pm

Tel: 87257536

Beijing Yashi Furniture Center

Free delivery within Fourth Ring Road.

Open: 8:00am-6:00pm

Tel: 67267788

Beijing Huansanhuan Furniture Center

Free delivery within Fourth Ring Road.

Open: 8:00--18:00

Tel: 63440082

Beijing Tianlantian Furniture & Home Decoration Center

Free delivery within Fourth Ring Road.

Open: 8:00--18:00

Tel: 63446321

Beijing Yangqiao Curtain & Furniture Center

Free delivery within Third Ring Road.

Open: 8:00--18:00

Tel: 67267788

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with? Our E-mail: housing@ynet.com Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525

Guest Quiz
Target: Debao Hotel
When: 18:30-19:50, Saturday, November 13th
Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan

Alberto Ivar, Denmark

This is my second time to stay here. When I was here last October, it was a very good month for traveling, and I asked the hotel to organize a car to take me to Badaling Great Wall. I had planned to also get a guide before I found out that the driver spoke good English and could tell me everything I wanted to know!

I went to the Temple of Earth as well. The driver bought me a toffee-hawthorn (Tanghulu) and it was the "sweetest" day during my stay in China.

Rehberg Gerhard, Germany

I hate getting unsolicited phone calls at night. I don't want to be bothered by such things. I was told that the hotel has a kind of call screening system. When they find a room receives a lot of random calls, usually no longer than a few seconds, they take measures to stop this activity. And that's good. What's a hotel for? To assure its guest a good sleep and here they do so, which is fine by me!

David Miles, Britain

It is a famous hotel and it is very safe. As a foreigner in Beijing, I like to stay in big hotels with good security. You know the feeling in a country you are not so familiar and you definitely want to be safeguarded. I sometimes saw men without uniform in the lobby lounge and I know they are security guards. That appeals to me.

Pictures by Xie Feng



Music



Harp Recital by Esabelle Perrin
Guest: Liu Wei, flute; Tian Ding, saxophone. Program: Granjany, Elegie pour la mort d'un berger; Bach, Sonata in G Major; Chopin-Rossini, Variations; G. Bizet, Fantaisie sur Carman; J. Ibert, Entracte; M. Grandjany, Rhapsodie. **Where:** National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhonguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. **When:** Nov. 16, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-200 yuan. **Tel:** 68485462.

Jazz by French Saxophonist Julian Lourau Lourau, a member of the band Groove Gang until they split several years ago, will perform music from his new album "Gambit". **Where:** Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 23. **Tel:** 64660032.



Music Featuring Laurent Garnier Garnier has inspired a generation of DJs with an electric style of New York deep house music, moody Detroit techno and Chicago funk, all with a French flavor. He has released three albums. **Where:** Vogue (时尚风格), 88 Xindonglu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 23, from 10 pm. **Tel:** 64165316.

Scream Record Music Festival By Painful Belief, guest: Ak-47, Ye Yang Guan Tou. **When:** Nov. 17. En Chong, Attack (Xi Ji), Multi element. **When:** Nov. 22. Asker and Hui Lang. **When:** Nov. 23. **Where:** Get Lucky, Taiyang-gonglu, east of the south gate of Duiwai Jiangmao. **Tel:** 64299109.

Weather

Friday
November 16

Clear to cloudy
Max: 6C. Min: -2C.

Saturday
November 17

Clear
Max: 12C. Min: -2C.

Sunday
November 18

Clear to cloudy
Max: 12C. Min: -1C.

Monday
November 19

Clear to cloudy
Max: 11C. Min: -1C.

Tuesday
November 20

Cloudy
Max: 10C. Min: 0C.

Wednesday
November 21

Cloudy to clear
Max: 8C. Min: -1C.

Thursday
November 22

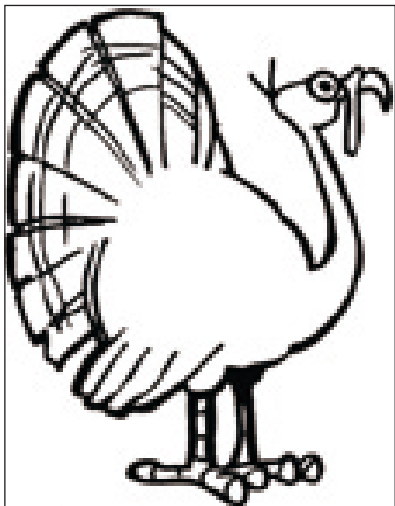
Clear
Max: 12C. Min: -2C.



We are glad to receive your feedback. If you need any help in your life, you can email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 65902522

By Priscilla / Lydia / Hydie

Thanksgiving Day Activities



Happy Thanksgiving Day at Hilton Beijing Chef Kunkel and his team to serve American style food. Warm seafood salad with jumbo prawns followed by a cream of chestnut soup with foie gras and truffle oil. The roasted turkey is waiting for you with pecan stuffing, cranberry chut-



ney, giblet gravy and sweet mashed potato before finishing off with our home make pumpkin pie & marble cheese cake. **Where:** Louisiana Restaurant, Hilton Hotel. **When:** Nov. 22, 6-10pm. **Tel:** 64662288 ext. 7420. Atrium Cafe Lavish buffet with international choice of salad, appetizer and soup such as New England clam chowder with corn, prawn cocktail with boston cocktail sauce and oysters. Carving items such as roast Tom



turkey with traditional sage stuffing, cranberry relish and giblet gravy or try honey glazed gammon ham with bourbon gravy. Dessert buffet offers pecan pie, pumpkin pie and of course Uncle Sam's apple pie. **Where:** Atrium Cafe, Hilton Hotel. **When:** Nov. 22.

Thanksgiving in COGS Thanksgiving, communion, family Sunday. **Where:** the Church of the Good Shepherd, the Capital Club Athletics Cen-

ter, Capital Mansion complex. **When:** Nov. 18, 10am. **Tel:** 64386536.

Thanksgiving with Dr. Jane Goodall "Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference." Dr. Jane Goodall is one of the most prominent figures in the international animal protection community. For 40 years, she has studied chimpanzees in Africa, and now she travels to share her message in the hope of inspiring young people to make a difference in their world. Turkey dinner provided (vegetarian option available). **Where:** 2F, Grand Ballroom, Kerry Center. **When:** Nov. 24, from 6pm, dinner at 7:30pm. **Admission:** 500 yuan. (Tickets must be purchased before noon on Tuesday, Nov. 20). **Tel:** Joyce Randle at 64376688 ext. 2424.



"Thank You" - Jane Goodall and a chimpanzee.

Exhibitions



Not Seeing Double - Try Triple

The cultural attache of the Australian Embassy, John Could, also an established sculptor, was seeing double when he arrived in Beijing recently. It was no laughing matter, however, as a virus infection meant his first impressions were all a blur. When he met fellow Australians and artists Lorraine and Anthony Taylor, they decided to put a show together. Of course it had to be called Triple Exposure. Opening preview: Nov. 17, 3-6pm. **Where:** Qin Gallery (泰昊画廊), 38A, Fangcaodi Beijie, Chaoyang District, south of Landao Department Store. **When:** Nov. 17-22, 10am-7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65074062.



Balloon for Christmas - Joint Exhibition by Five People New works by Yin Kun, Xiao Se, Lao Dao, Xin Yi and Li Chunyao. Each expresses their own ideas towards life and the world. Opening recep-



tion: Nov. 17, 3-5pm. **When:** Nov. 17-Dec 5, 9am-5pm. Exhibition of Chinese paintings, water-colors and sketches by Huang Youwei, Yu Jiantao, Gao Wengang, Zhang Zhenhua, and Kuang Han. Opening reception: Nov. 3-5pm. **When:** Nov. 17-Dec. 5, 9am-5pm. **Where:** East Hall of Wan Fung Gallery (云峰画廊), 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District, bus 1, 4, 57 to Tian'anmen

then walk. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65233320.

Photos by Wang Dongwei - China 2000 Wang has traveled all around China. His photos show the simplicity of the life of Chinese people. **Where:** Cultural Office, Italian Embassy, 2 Dongerjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District. **When:** till Nov. 20, 9am-1pm, 2-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65322187.



Photo Exhibition

By Zhu Xianmin and Yan Gang. **When:** Nov. 15-20, 9am-5pm. **Where:** International Art Palace (国际艺苑), 48 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **Tel:** 65133388-1207.

Mountains & waters

Yang Changkui and Wang Zhenzhong's painting exhibition sponsored by China Artist Association and Guizhou Artist Association. **Where:** 1F, National Museum of Fine Art, Dongcheng District, bus 109, 112, 110 to Meishuguan. **When:** Nov. 16-Nov. 22, open reception: 10am, Nov. 16. **Tel:** 64016234.



Food

French Food & Wine Festival Guest chefs from Hotel Royal Monceau and Hotel Vernet in Paris. The two Michelin-star chefs will present exquisite French cuisine, featuring goose liver, crayfish and truffles. Also a Veuve Clicquot champagne dinner on Nov. 20 and a cheese maker dinner on Nov. 23. **Where:** Kempinski Hotel, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 19-27. **Reservation:** 64653388 ext. 4105.

Italian Restaurant - Peppinos Come and sample the culinary delights of Venice. Delicately prepared specialties

such as risotto with squid ink, spaghetti with fresh mussels and many more. **When:** Nov. 7-24. **Japanese Restaurant - Nishimura** Enjoy a heart-warming Japanese meat, seafood or vegetable hot pot cooked at your table. **When:** Nov. 5-20. **Coffee Garden** Traditional American Thanksgiving buffet. Enjoy a sumptuous spread of American delicacies such as whole turkey, sweet corn and apple pie. **When:** Nov. 19-22. **Where:** All the above are in the Beijing Shangri-la Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuanlu, Haidian District.

Performance

Argentina "Tango Metropolis" Dance Show

Where: Minorities Cultural Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District. **When:** Nov. 23-24, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-380 yuan. **Tel:** 65320168, 66059881.

Fashion Show By Italian designer Roberta Redaelli, who has been involved in design for 18 years and is a recipient of Vogue Wedding magazine's Best Stylist award. This time she will show her collection of exclusive designs in knitwear and silk dresses. **Where:** Cultural Office, Embassy of Italy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 22, 5pm. **Tel:** 65322187.



Designer Roberta Redaelli

Activities

Happy to be in China X'mas Party Another YPHH party. Free flow of drinks, buffet dinner, live music, lucky draw with great prizes, DJ Markus Benz. **Where:** Grand Ballroom, Great Wall Sheraton. **When:** Dec. 15, 8pm till next morning. **Tickets:** 550 yuan, before Nov. 21; 650 yuan after Nov. 21, available from: Hidden Tree, South Sanlitun Bar Street; Sgt. Pepper's, west gate of Chaoyang Park. **Tel:** Carmen, 65386886 ext. 3819, Piet, 13910051803.

Leonid Meteor Shower According to the forecast, the meteor shower will peak from 1am to 3am, Nov. 19. Best get out of town if you want the full experience (see p16). The Beijing Planetarium (北京天文馆) is featuring a special meteor program until Nov. 25.

Free Latin Dance Course Salsa Club. Food available all night. No partner or experience necessary. **Where:** Peter Pan Italian Restaurant, 4 Ritanbeilu, Chaoyang District, 200m east of Ritan Park. **When:** Every Fri / Sat, music starts at 8pm, free lesson at 8.30pm and dance till late. **Admission:** 20 yuan (you can get a drink voucher for 20 yuan). **Tel:** 13661324324, or 65950680.



Steve with his co-teacher, Grace Liang

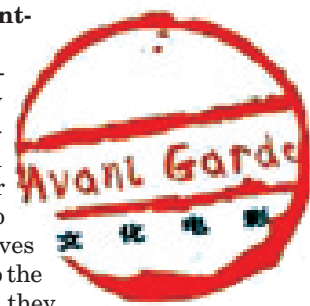
Close to Shadow Puppet Shadow Puppet Play given by a village troupe from Laoting County, Tangshan, home to Chinese Shadow Puppet Play. You also have chance to go backstage to see how they manipulate the puppets and learn how the donkey hide puppets are made. **Where:** 17, Ju'er hutong, Jiadaokou Nandajie (交道口南大街), Dongcheng District, Qiseguang (seven colours' lights) Children's Theatre (七色光儿童剧场), east of the Drum Tower. **When:** Nov. 18, Sunday, 2:30pm-5pm. **Fee:** 30 yuan/20 yuan (students and kids). **Tel:** contact Feng Cheng at 8462-2081/1350-103-5145.

Super Football Fans? Big Screen. Exclusive memorabilia signed by some of the world's top players. Unique, international menu. And, from World Cup Qualifiers to the English Premiership, UEFA Champions League to the Spanish Primera - we've got it all! Sat: Blackburn Rovers vs Liverpool, 7:50pm; Premiership match, 10:50pm. Sun: Everton vs Chelsea, 9:50pm; Ipswich town vs Bolton Wanderers, 12 midnight. All LIVE & English remiership! **Add:** 10 Taipingzhuang, near Red House Hotel, Chunxiulu, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 64150988.

Movies

Chinese avant-garde movies

One Hundred..., directed by Yin Huatao, starring Cui Lin, Chi Jia. Two boys hear that anyone who can catch 100 thieves will be admitted to the Police School. So they form a plan ... **Where:** Da Hua Cinema, 82 Dongdan Beidajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** Nov. 22, 8pm. **Admission:** 30 yuan. **Tel:** 65272757. Postman in the Mountains Directed by Huo Jianqi. A postman in a poor village has to walk long distances every day in the mountains to deliver letters. **Where:** Sung Dong An Cinema (Xindong'an 新东安电影院), 5F, Sung Dong An Market, 183 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** Nov. 21. **Admission:** 25 yuan. **Tel:** 65281838.



Italian Movie

The Garden of Finzi-Continis, directed by Vittorio De Sica. The implementation of Mussolini's racial laws between 1938 and 1943 represent a looming tragedy for a picturesque Italian village. **Where:** Space for Imagination Coffee Shop, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaolu, opposite Tsinghua Tongfang Mansion, bus 375 to Qinghuadongmen, or bus 355 to Shuangqinglu. **When:** Nov. 17, 7pm. **Admission:** 5 yuan. **Tel:** 62791280.

Korean Movie A Love Story, directed by Lee Hyun Seung, starring Jeon Ji Hyun, Lee Jung Jea. **Where:** 5F, Hyundi Millennium Tower, 38 Xiaoyunlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Nov. 23, 5:30pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 84538112/3.

Chinese Movie with English Subtitles

Medicine & Honesty (黄莲厚朴), directed by Zhang Yang, starring Zhu Xu, Wang Zhixia; 1999, 100 minutes. A wonderfully acted and scripted glimpse of life inside a Beijing family, in which old and new ways collide. **Where:** Cherry Lane Movies, Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, Intl. Conference Hall, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, 1km east of the Kempinski Hotel. **When:** Nov. 23, 8pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 64615318/9.

Health

Flu Shots The flu is a potentially serious, contagious disease that infects the nose, throat and lungs. Prevention is a lot better than cure! **Where:** Beijing Family Hospital and Clinics, 2 Jiangtailu, Chaoyang District, 600 m southeast of Holiday Inn Lido. **When:** till Dec. 31, 9am-5pm, Mon-Sat. **Price:** \$ 10. **Tel:** 64333960.

Auctions

Pacific International Auction

Pottery, ancient furniture and pearls and jewels. Preview: Nov. 23-24, 9am-6pm, auction, Nov. 25, from 9:30am. **Where:** Conference Room, 18F, Tower B, Kingwing Hotspring Hotel (京瑞大厦), 17 Dongsanhuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 67668866-81007.

Antiques, calligraphy and paintings

Preview: Nov. 23, 9am-8pm, Nov. 24, 9am-6pm. **Where:** Oriental Garden Hotel (东方花园饭店), 6 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District, 100 m south of Dongsishitiao Bridge. **When:** Nov. 25, 9:30am-1:30pm. **Tel:** 64168866.

Bird Watching



Is In Season

Leisurely Getaway

By Williams

Every year during late autumn, birds of passage on their migration to the south make their temporary habitats in certain areas around Beijing, greatly boosting the numbers of the local bird population. From late October to early December, and again in March and May when the birds return north, these areas, whether in the forests or the water regions, attract numerous bird watchers.

Wood fowl can always be found in densely vegetated mountain regions, such as Lingshan, Miaofeng in Mentougou and Songsshan in Yanqing. Waterfowl generally frequent reservoirs and large lakes, such as Miyun Reservoir, Guanting Reservoir, Shisanling Reservoir, Huairou Reservoir and Yeya Lake.

Yeya Lake is popular with bird watchers in early winter or late spring, simply because many birds that might otherwise only be found in reference books can be seen here. The source of Yeya Lake is Guanting Reservoir. It covers an area of 150 square kilometers, and features dense vegetation around its perimeter and abundant reeds, which provide shelter to migrating birds.

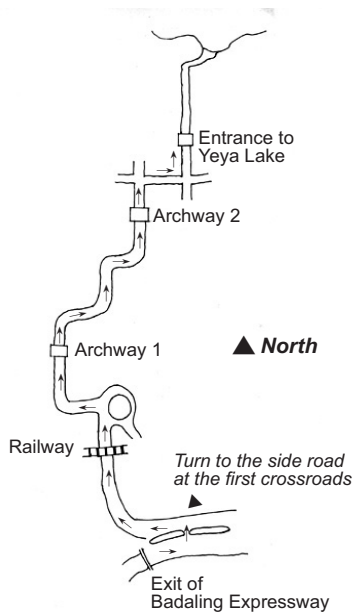
As you approach the bank of Yeya Lake, you will feel the temperature dropping. The wind blowing off the lake bends the reeds to one side, and carries the cries of the birds in the distance to the bird watchers' ears on the bank.

You can hire a motorboat at the lake, and the roar of the engine will stir the birds now and then. From time to time, a flock of mallards might emerge suddenly from behind the reeds, flapping their wings in unified rhythm, glazed feathers glinting in the sunlight. If you want to take a closer look, you can ask the boatman to stop in the center of the lake. A telescope is essential, because they won't let you get too close. There are several different species of waterfowl here. The mallard is an excellent



▲ North

Bird watching sites in Beijing



▲ North

Drive route after Yanqing Exit

diver, it will disappear suddenly from view and reemerge from under the water a few seconds later. There are also common pochards, and wigeons, all taking a leisurely cruise in the lake, as well as great gray shrikes.

You will need to go further to find other varieties of birds. After the boatman moors the boat on the far side of the lake, you will climb a high bank, on the other side of which is another water area.

Hiking through a muddy and slippery swamp, you will come to the northeastern end of Guanting Reservoir. Here you will hear the cry of the cranes. This time you should hire a paddleboat, which will not frighten the big birds on the other side of the island standing near the beach of the reservoir. At this time of year, you should be able to see cranes here, mostly grey cranes and white-naped cranes, standing with their elegant poses.

Many bird watchers gather here. Some of them stay in tents pitched on the beach for more than a week at a time. It is said that four rare whooping cranes have been seen in this region, if you are lucky enough, you might just find them yourself.

Another advantage of Yeya Lake is that it is easy to find. It is located in the northwest of Kangzhuang Town, which is only fifteen kilometers apart from the turn-off from Badaling Expressway in Yanqing County. It takes about one and a half hours to drive there.

Tips: Staying by the lake for several days will afford you the opportunity to see many rare birds. Early morning is the best period for bird watching. Most birds will come out at that time. Accommodation is available at the entrance to the lake. You should pay 100 yuan for the motorboat, and 50 yuan for the paddleboat; however if you are going to spend longer there, hiking around the lake is a better option than crossing it by boat. A telescope is essential

Photo by Zhao Xinru

Chinawide

Wang Residence in Shanxi

By Jiangzhong

The Old manor of the Wangs (静升王家) is located on a small hill in the north of Jingsheng Village (静升村), Lingshi Town (灵石县), Shanxi Province. It is 150 kilometers north of Taiyuan (capital of Shanxi Province), 12 kilometers from Lingshi Town.

The manor comprises of three parts, the eastern and western section and Xiaoyi Temple (孝义祠), covering an area of 34,450 square meters. The eastern and western section are both in the style of a castle, and are connected to each other by a bridge.

There are over 200 rooms and 26 smaller courtyards in the eastern section, which is known locally as Gaojiaya (高家崖). On the western side of Gaojiaya are a library and garden. A cellar underneath the garden is connected to many rooms within the complex by a system of tunnels. On the eastern side is the kitchen, and some 65 doorways connect the various individual courtyards.

Behind the complex are 13 cave residences, which were built to accommodate the servants.

The western section, called Hongmenbao (红门堡), covers an area of 19,800 square meters and features 28 courtyards and more than 800 rooms. Three parallel alleys and an artery linking them form a Chinese character 'Wang'. The artery also acts as a drainage system. The major buildings of this section are located in the southwest, and the style of the buildings is typical of the design

of residences of high-ranking officials. Mythical beasts are playing with a ball; the decoration to the stone steps



High walls surround the Wangs' residence, evidence of the family's efforts to isolate themselves from the outside world. Many rooms adopt the style of cave dwellings prevailing in some provinces in North China. The windows and the doors are mostly arch-shaped;

while the window frames, eaves, roofs, screen walls, shrines and stone drums all feature intricate patterns or carvings. All these are the typical characteristics of northern Chinese residences. Meanwhile some rooms, particularly in the design of the doors and screens, display southern Chinese characteristics.

Wood, brick and stone carvings abound, and are one of the highlights of the manor of the Wangs.

About the Wangs

Ancestors of the Wangs originally inhabited Taiyuan. They moved to Jingsheng in 1312. The Wangs engaged in farming and bean curd making in the early years. With the success of their bean curd business, the Wangs began their involvement in politics.

The fortunes of the family declined during the late Qing Dynasty. Some of the family members gave up the business handed down from the ancestors; some began leading dissolute lifestyles; some became beggars and thieves.

All that remains of the family now is the old residence, which has weathered the changes in China well, and retaining its original appearance; provides tourists with many clues of the family's former prosperity.

How to get there: train K717 depart at 8:23am from Beijing Railway Station to Taiyuan (81 yuan for hard seat, 194 for hard sleeper), then change to train 2535 that will get to Lingshi at 8:19pm; bus 1 to the manor (3 yuan)

Admittance: 35 yuan



Suxin Hall at the Hongmenbao



In this brick carving, the carps are endeavoring to get through the archway guarded by the dragons

If you have any bright ideas for weekend, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any ideas, photo, itineraries to us. Contact: Jiang Zhong Tel: 65902520 e-mail: plan@ynet.com

Beijing's Big Buddha

By Williams

Baishui (白水 White Water) Temple is situated in Xiexigang (蝎息岗 Resting Scorpion Hill), Baishui Forest Park, Fangshan District. Bai-shui Temple is also known as Xinglong (Prosperity) Temple, while the locals refer to it as Dafo (Giant Buddha) Temple.

The temple was originally constructed in the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234), however it has been rebuilt many times. The temple now includes a large hall, built entirely without beams and three enormous statues made of granite.

The statues stand just behind the entrance to the hall of the temple. The largest is a 5.8-meter-high statue of Sakyamuni Buddha standing on a lotus. The face is plump and has a benevolent expression. The ears are very large, with the earlobes touching his shoulders, a typical characteristic of Buddha in Chinese mythology. He wears a splendid cassock, which reveals only the tips of his toes. The colorful paint of the statue has faded. The statues standing on either side of Sakyamuni are his two disciples. All three statues feature smooth and bold lines, which lend them an air of primitive simplicity.

The Sakyamuni statue at Baishui Temple is the largest Buddha statue in Beijing, and is of great archaeological value.

Behind Baishui Temple is Dafang Mountain, a beautiful scenic spot and a great place for picnicking or hiking.



Take the Jingshi Expressway at Lianhuachi to Yancun (闫村) Exit, then drive following the sign of the Xiexigang Forest Park (Yanshanshihua)

Cultural Tour

Outdoor Action

Meteor Shower Hits Town



Jinshanling Great Wall

By Johnson

If the sky is clear this Monday (November 19), amateur astronomers will have an opportunity to see the Leonid meteor shower (Leonids), between 1:30am and 2:20am. The meteor shower appears every November, in varying intensities, when the earth crosses the orbit of the Tempel-Tuttle comet. A spectacular show was predicted in 1998, however astronomers had miscalculated and most people saw few, if any meteors. This year they have assured us that they have got their calculations right!

The meteors will be hard to make out in brightly lit and sometimes smoggy downtown Beijing, however the surrounding countryside offers some ideal spots for observing this spectacular phenomenon. Jinshanling (金山岭) Great Wall, in the northeast of Miyun County, is one such location perfect for meteor watching. This section of Great Wall is about 10.5 kilometers long, and features five passes, 67 arrow towers and two beacon towers. The first 'grazers' or meteors that graze, rather than enter the earth's atmosphere should appear from 11.30pm.

On Sunday night, the night before the meteor shower, astronomy buffs will hold a party on the top of Jinshanling Great Wall (BYO telescope).

Contact: Yuanfeiniaoo Outdoor Club (远飞鸟户外俱乐部), 62525686

How to get there: bus from Dongzhimen Long Distance Bus Station to the Great Wall (10 yuan, two hours)